



# **THE BOARD** **of** **SUPERVISORS**

## **First District**



**Gloria  
Molina**

## **Second District**



**Yvonne  
B. Burke**

## **Third District**



**Zev  
Yaroslavsky**

## **Fourth District**



**Don  
Knabe**

## **Fifth District**



**Michael D.  
Antonovich**

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1 [Closes Session was cancelled today due to lack of a quorum.]

2

3

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** COULD I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE AND  
6 GOOD MORNING AND IF YOU'D ALL PLEASE RISE. WE'RE GOING TO BE  
7 LED IN THE INVOCATION BY FATHER FERMIN ROSAS, CATEDRAL SAGRADA  
8 CHURCH IN HUNTINGTON PARK. WE'LL BE LED IN THE PLEDGE OF  
9 ALLEGIANCE BY GEORGE DIXON, SECOND VICE COMMANDER, EAGLE ROCK  
10 POST NUMBER 276, THE AMERICAN LEGION. FATHER?

11

12 **FATHER FERMIN ROSAS:** GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU, SUPERVISORS  
13 GLORIA MOLINA FOR MY TIME THIS MORNING AND WE PRAY, MY  
14 FRIENDS, OMNIPOTENT GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THIS \_\_\_\_\_  
15 FOR COUNTRY AND STATE. HUMBL Y WE SUPPLICATE FOR YOUR HELP TO  
16 DEMONSTRATE US IN WAYS OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR  
17 FAVOR AND JOYFULNESS AND OF YOUR WILLFULNESS. BLESS OUR  
18 COUNTRY AND OUR STATE WITH HONORABLE LABOR, COMPLETE IN  
19 KNOWLEDGE AND \_\_\_\_\_. KEEP US FROM ALL VIOLENCE,  
20 DISAGREENESS AND CONFUSION, \_\_\_\_\_ ARROGANCE AND ALL  
21 MISCHIEF \_\_\_\_\_. DEFEND OUR LIBERTIES AND FORGE A  
22 VILLAGE UNITED BY \_\_\_\_\_ WHO CAN HEAR FROM THE DIVERSE  
23 NATIONS AND LANGUAGES. ROTATE WE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF WISDOM  
24 TO WHOM IN YOUR NAME WE TRUST THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
25 SO THAT THERE IS JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY AND OUR CITY





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1 AND THAT \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE OBEDIENCE TOWARDS YOUR LOVE. WE  
2 MANIFEST YOUR GLORY BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF THE AIR. AMEN.

3

4 **GEORGE DIXON:** WOULD EVERYONE PLACE YOUR RIGHT HAND OVER YOUR  
5 HEART AND JOIN ME IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. [ PLEDGE OF  
6 ALLEGIANCE ]

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SUPERVISOR MOLINA?

9

10 **SUP. MOLINA:** THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. IT'S MY PLEASURE TO  
11 PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO FATHER FERMIN ROSAS.  
12 FATHER ROSAS IMMIGRATED INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO IN  
13 1990. HE OBTAINED HIS DEGREE FROM THE SACTAS THEOLOGICAL  
14 INSTITUTE AND BECAME AN ORDAINED PRIEST IN 2002. IN 2003,  
15 FATHER ROSAS JOINED THE CATHEDRAL SAGRADA FAMILIA IN  
16 HUNTINGTON PARK WHERE, IN ADDITION TO SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, HE  
17 FOCUSES ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES. FATHER ROSAS LOOKS  
18 FORWARD TO FURTHERING HIS EDUCATION AND TO CONTINUE TO SERVE  
19 HIS COMMUNITY IN A LEADERSHIP CAPACITY. WE THANK YOU, FATHER  
20 ROSAS, FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING.

21

22 **FATHER FERMIN ROSAS:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AND THEN WE'LL JUST...

25



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1    **SUP. MOLINA:** THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WE'LL WAIT A COUPLE SECONDS HERE, A  
4    COUPLE MINUTES FOR SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH TO ARRIVE AND THEN HE  
5    CAN DO-- IF NOT, I'LL MAKE THE PRESENTATION. OKAY? THANK YOU.  
6    OKAY. WE'LL DO THE AGENDA.

7

8    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, WE  
9    HAVE PUBLIC HEARING MATTERS. LET ME GO THROUGH AND ANNOUNCE A  
10    FEW CONTINUANCES. ON ITEM 14, CONTINUE TO JANUARY 25, 2005.

11

12    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ITEM NUMBER 14 WILL BE CONTINUED TO JANUARY  
13    25TH, 2005.

14

15    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 15, CONTINUE TO JANUARY 15, '05.

16

17    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO ORDERED.

18

19    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** THEN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, BOARD OF  
20    SUPERVISORS, ITEMS 16 THROUGH 20. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING  
21    REQUESTS. HOLD ITEM 18 FOR SUPERVISOR BURKE, HOLD ITEM 19 FOR  
22    SUPERVISOR MOLINA.

23



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. I ALSO HAVE A HOLD ON 18 AS WELL,  
2    TOO, SO-- ON THE REMAINDER, MOVED BY SUPERVISOR MOLINA, THE  
3    CHAIR WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

4

5    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, ITEM 21.

6

7    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HELD ITEM 18 AND WHAT WAS  
8    THE OTHER ONE?

9

10    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 19.

11

12    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** HELD THAT?

13

14    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MM HM.

15

16    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

17

18    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 21.

19

20    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, SECONDED  
21    BY SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

22

23    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ON ITEM 22, WE HAVE A REQUEST BY  
24    SUPERVISOR KNABE TO CONTINUE THE ITEM FOR TWO WEEKS.

25



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO ORDERED.

2

3    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SHERIFF, ITEM 23.

4

5    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, THE CHAIR  
6    WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. I THINK I'LL STOP  
7    THERE AND ALLOW MR. ANTONOVICH TO MAKE YOUR PRESENTATION TO  
8    OUR-- TO MR. DIXON.

9

10    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS, IT'S A PLEASURE TO  
11    WELCOME GEORGE DIXON, WHO LED US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
12    THIS MORNING. HE'S SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS A  
13    SERGEANT, STAFF SERGEANT BETWEEN 1977 AND 1982. HE'S EMPLOYED  
14    WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
15    VETERANS AFFAIRS AS A VETERANS BENEFITS COUNSELOR. AND HE IS A  
16    GRADUATE OF CENTRAL COAST COLLEGE, RESIDES IN LOS ANGELES. SO,  
17    THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [ APPLAUSE ]

18

19    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. BACK TO THE AGENDA.

20

21    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 24, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION.

22

23    **SUP. MOLINA:** EXCUSE ME. ON ITEM NUMBER 23, THIS ITEM NEEDS TO  
24    BE HELD.

25





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1    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** OKAY. SO WE'LL HOLD IT FOR SUPERVISOR...

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

4

5    **SUP. MOLINA:** BE HELD, PLEASE.

6

7    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. THEN WE NEED A MOTION FOR  
8    RECONSIDERATION.

9

10    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO MOVED.

11

12    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED THEN  
13    ITEM 23 WILL BE HELD.

14

15    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 24, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION.

16

17    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE, SECONDED BY  
18    SUPERVISOR MOLINA. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

19

20    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION, ITEMS 25 AND  
21    26. ITEM 25, ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION AMENDING TITLE 5,  
22    PERSONNEL OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE RELATING TO THE  
23    TERMINATION PAY PICKUP PLAN. THIS ITEM IS BEFORE YOU.

24



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1   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, SECONDED BY  
2   SUPERVISOR MOLINA. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

3

4   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 26, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5,  
5   PERSONNEL OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE RELATING TO THE  
6   SAVINGS PLAN.

7

8   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE, THE CHAIR WILL  
9   SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

10

11   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION, ITEM 27.

12

13   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY-- I'LL MOVE IT AND SECONDED BY  
14   SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

15

16   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 28, ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA  
17   REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS AND THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
18   OFFICER WHICH WERE POSTED MORE THAN 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE  
19   MEETING, AS INDICATED ON THE GREEN SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA. ITEM  
20   28-A.

21

22   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH. THE CHAIR  
23   WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

24

25   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 28-B.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, SECONDED BY  
3 SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

4

5 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** THAT COMPLETES THE READING OF THE  
6 AGENDA. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SPECIAL ITEMS BEGIN WITH  
7 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. BEFORE I CALL ON SUPERVISOR  
10 ANTONOVICH, WE HAVE THE PLEASURE AGAIN OF WELCOMING A NEW  
11 MEMBER OF OUR COUNCIL CORPS TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND RIGHT  
12 FROM THE NORTH THERE, OUR NEW CONSUL-GENERAL OF CANADA, THE  
13 HONORABLE ALAIN DUBOIS AND WIFE, MICHELLE. CONSUL-GENERAL  
14 DUBOIS WAS EDUCATED IN CANADA AND FRANCE AND HAS UNDERGRADUATE  
15 AND GRADUATE DEGREES IN IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW. AFTER  
16 JOINING CANADA'S FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE IN 1972, HE ADVANCED  
17 TO SENIOR POSITIONS ON THE PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE, THE CANADIAN  
18 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE. IN  
19 1982, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL  
20 AFFAIRS, BECAME THE SENIOR ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF  
21 STATE. THE CONSUL-GENERAL SERVED AT THE EMBASSY IN PARIS FOR  
22 FOUR YEARS AS MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
23 AFFAIRS. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC FROM  
24 1994 TO 1997. HE WAS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL FROM 1997 TO 2000 AND  
25 AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN FROM 2000 UNTIL BEING APPOINTED CONSUL-



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1 GENERAL HERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. HE IS JOINED IN LOS  
2 ANGELES BY HIS WIFE, MICHELLE. THEY HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS.  
3 CONSUL-GENERAL DUBOIS, WE ARE HONORED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF  
4 SUCH A SENIOR DIPLOMAT AS CONSUL-GENERAL HERE IN LOS ANGELES  
5 COUNTY. AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES' LARGEST  
6 TRADING PARTNER, YOUR JOB HERE IN OUR LOS ANGELES COUNTY IS A  
7 VITAL LINK TO BOTH THE PROSPERITY FOR BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES.  
8 SO WE WANT TO WELCOME YOU HERE TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY, THE  
9 WORLD'S 16TH LARGEST ECONOMY. WE WANT TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS  
10 PLAQUE IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR APPOINTMENT BUT, MORE  
11 IMPORTANTLY, AS A SYMBOL OF OUR FRIENDSHIP. [ APPLAUSE ]

12

13 **CONSUL-GENERAL DUBOIS:** MUCHAS GRACIAS, AMIGOS ET AMIGAS. MERCI  
14 BEAUCOUP. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'M DEEPLY HONORED, MY WIFE AND  
15 I, TO RECEIVE THIS PLATE BY THE CHAIRMAN. I'M QUITE IMPRESSED  
16 ALSO BY THE BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE, DIVERSITY THAT REPRESENTS  
17 THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. AS YOU  
18 RIGHTLY POINTED OUT, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR CANADA, CALIFORNIA AND  
19 THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REPRESENT KEY PARTNERS, NOT ONLY KEY  
20 TRADING AND ECONOMIC PARTNERS BUT WE ARE ALSO ALLIES AND  
21 FRIENDS. SO, AT THE BEGINNING OF MY TENURE IN THIS WONDERFUL  
22 PART OF THE UNITED STATES, I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING  
23 VERY CLOSELY WITH YOU, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THE PEOPLE  
24 WHO YOU REPRESENT AND THE INSTITUTIONS ALSO THAT ARE LOCATED  
25 IN THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTY TO FURTHER DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP OF



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1 FRIENDSHIP, ALLIANCE AND AS TRADING PARTNERS. MERCI BEAUCOUP,  
2 MUCHOS GRACIAS E HASTAS LUEGO. [ APPLAUSE ]

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH?

5

6 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS, IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO  
7 INTRODUCE A PERSONAL FRIEND AND ALSO A GREAT HERO TO MANY  
8 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THAT'S A GREAT FAMOUS JAZZ  
9 SINGER AND MOTION PICTURE STAR, HERB JEFFRIES, WHO IS HERE  
10 TODAY. JEFFRIES WAS JUST HONORED WITH A STAR ON THE HOLLYWOOD  
11 WALK OF FAME FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND FILM DURING A  
12 CEREMONY HELD ON THIS SEPTEMBER 24TH AND THAT WAS THE DAY OF  
13 HIS 93RD BIRTHDAY. SO HERB WAS 93 THIS PAST SEPTEMBER 24TH. IN  
14 THE TRADITION OF GENE AUTRY AND ROY ROGERS, HE WAS A SINGING  
15 COWBOY WHO STARRED IN FIVE WESTERN FILMS IN THE LATE 1930S. HE  
16 WAS KNOWN AS THE BRONZE BUCKEROO. IN FILMS, IT MADE HIS  
17 PERSONAL MISSION TO TELL THE STORIES OF BLACK COWBOYS IN THE  
18 OLD WEST AND PROVIDE A HERO FIGURE FOR AFRO-AMERICAN CHILDREN  
19 TO EMULATE. IN 1939, HE HUNG UP HIS SPURS TO SING AND TOUR  
20 WITH DUKE ELLINGTON'S ORCHESTRA AND, UPON ITS RELEASE IN 1941,  
21 HIS SONG, WHICH IS A TRADITIONAL SONG WHICH EVERYBODY KNOWS  
22 AND IS STILL A HIT TODAY, "FLAMINGO," BECAME AN IMMEDIATE  
23 RADIO AND JUKE BOX HIT. IT HAS SOLD MORE THAN 14 MILLION  
24 COPIES TO TODAY. SO WE CONGRATULATE HERB. HE ALSO HAS A NEW  
25 ALBUM, C.D. HAS COME OUT AND WE WANT TO WELCOME HERB HERE.





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1 HE'S WITH HIS PERSONAL MANAGER, SAVANNAH, AND HIS WIFE AND  
2 JULIE FERGUSON, JOHN FERGUSON, DAVID PITTS, KATHY PITTS,  
3 SHARON CARTER AND ROGER CARBAD. SO, HERB, CONGRATULATIONS ON  
4 YOUR STAR AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AND IT'S A PLEASURE TO RECOGNIZE  
5 ONE OF OUR GREAT HEROES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, MR. HERB  
6 JEFFRIES. [ APPLAUSE ]

7

8 **HERB JEFFRIES:** THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH AND TO ALL OF THE  
9 OFFICES HERE OF SUPERVISION. AND I'M SO HAPPY THAT I LIVE IN  
10 THIS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE IT HAS SUPPORTED ME IN  
11 EVERYTHING I HAVE TRIED TO ENDEAVOR TO DO AND I WANT TO THANK  
12 ALL THE OFFICES HERE. AND MIKE, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I  
13 APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS AND WITH GREAT LOVE AND  
14 UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. THANK YOU AND GOD  
15 BLESS YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

16

17 **SUP. BURKE:** I'D LIKE TO JOIN TO SAY THAT I'M AN OLD FAN AND  
18 CERTAINLY JUST SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU HERE AND THANK YOU FOR  
19 JOINING US AND COMING HERE TODAY.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH, MR. JEFFRIES.  
22 AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU HERE.

23

24 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** GROUP PICTURE.

25



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JOHN?

2

3    **SUP. BURKE:** COME ON, JOHN. GET IN HERE.

4

5    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** CHAIR MEMBERS, NOW I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE,  
6    FROM THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, THE SENIOR BABE RUTH ALL-STARS,  
7    WHO EARNED THE TITLE OF WORLD CHAMPIONS THIS SUMMER. IN JULY,  
8    THIS UNDERDOG "B" TEAM BEAT THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY "A" TEAM  
9    AND MOVED ON TO THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT IN  
10    WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA. AT THE TOURNAMENT, THE SAN GABRIEL  
11    VALLEY ALL-STARS BESTED TEAMS FROM UTAH, CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
12    AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, PLACING THEM IN THE WORLD SERIES HELD  
13    IN NEWARK, OHIO. THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ALL-STARS THEN BEAT  
14    THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS AND TWO OTHER TEAMS TO BRING THEM TO  
15    THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ALL-STARS THEN  
16    WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME BY A SCORE OF 8-TO-2, WITH NINE  
17    PLAYERS NAMED TO THE TWO ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAMS. SO I'M SURE THE  
18    BOSTON RED SOX ARE FOLLOWING IN THEIR TRADITION TODAY, SO WE  
19    WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE TEAM MEMBERS AND THEIR COACHES WHO  
20    ARE HERE TODAY AND PRESENT THIS PROCLAMATION TO THEM. FIRST WE  
21    HAVE THE HEAD COACH, PHIL TORRES. [ APPLAUSE ]

22

23    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AND WE HAVE COACH BRENT FORCEY. [ APPLAUSE ]

24

25    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** YOU'RE WELCOME. BRIAN FERRIS. [ APPLAUSE ]



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1

2 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** TREVOR BELL. [ APPLAUSE ]

3

4 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AND MARK SIMMONS. [ APPLAUSE ]

5

6 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** COACH, YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING?

7

8 **PHIL TORRES:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT'S A HONOR TO BE HERE AND  
9 IT WAS A HONOR TO COACH THE BOYS AND TAKE THEM ALL ACROSS THE  
10 COUNTRY AND PLAY AND REPRESENT SAN GABRIEL VALLEY. THANK YOU.  
11 [ APPLAUSE ]

12

13 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** NOW, IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A SET TO ADOPT  
14 LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY WHO ARE 12 WEEKS OLD AND THEY ARE DOMESTIC  
15 SHORT-HAIRS. SO THIS IS LITTLE LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY, WHO ARE  
16 LOOKING FOR A HOME. ANYBODY'D LIKE TO ADOPTED THEM, YOU CAN  
17 CALL THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR TELEVISION  
18 SCREEN, (562) 728-4644, OR ANYBODY IN THE AUDIENCE WHO WOULD  
19 LIKE TO HAVE LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY. THEY GO WELL WITH YOUR  
20 TURKEY. AS A FRIEND.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. VERY GOOD. SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY?

23

24 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO ASK ELLEN STERN  
25 HARRIS TO COME FORWARD. [ GAVEL ]



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF WE CAN HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.

3

4 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I ASKED ELLEN STERN HARRIS TO  
5 COME DOWN THIS MORNING SO THAT WE COULD CELEBRATE HER 75TH  
6 BIRTHDAY WITH HER. ELLEN, I KNOW EVERYONE ON THIS BOARD KNOWS  
7 ELLEN STERN HARRIS IS THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
8 THE FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. SHE'S A THIRD GENERATION  
9 RESIDENT OF BEVERLY HILLS IN THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT  
10 AND A LONGSTANDING CIVIC LEADER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST.  
11 SHE HAS BEEN PROMINENTLY INVOLVED IN WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL  
12 PROTECTION ISSUES FOR MANY, MANY YEARS AND WAS CO-AUTHOR OF  
13 PROPOSITION 20, AN INITIATIVE PASSED BY THE STATE'S VOTERS IN  
14 1972, THAT CREATED THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT. SHE SERVED AS A  
15 VICE CHAIR OF THE STATE COASTAL COMMISSION FOR ITS FIRST FOUR  
16 YEARS. SHE PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER  
17 QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, WHERE SHE HELPED TO CLEAN UP THE  
18 HEAVILY POLLUTED LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH HARBORS AND WORKED  
19 TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S WATER QUALITY LAWS FOR THE FIRST  
20 TIME IN 22 YEARS. SHE WAS THE LEAD AMICUS IN THE FEDERAL SUIT  
21 TO CLEAN UP THE SANTA MONICA BAY AND REPRESENTING THE CITY OF  
22 BEVERLY HILLS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN  
23 WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. SHE ADVOCATED FOR A  
24 FAIR RATE STRUCTURE THERE SO THAT RESIDENTIAL RATE PAYERS  
25 WOULDN'T HAVE TO SUBSIDIZE AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER COMMERCIAL



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1 WATER USERS. SHE ALSO SERVED IN THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
2 FIRST RECREATION PARKS COMMISSION AND SERVED ON THE CITY'S  
3 CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CURRENTLY SHE SERVES  
4 ON THE CITY'S TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. SHE HAS TAUGHT PUBLIC  
5 POLICY AT U.C.L.A., HAS BEEN NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE  
6 LOS ANGELES TIMES, FOR WHOM SHE WROTE A CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
7 COLUMN FOR SEVEN YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR HER WORK  
8 WITH AWARDS FROM THE SIERRA CLUB, THE AUDUBON SOCIETY, AND THE  
9 UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION AND ALL OF THAT IN JUST A LITTLE  
10 UNDER 75 YEARS. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT 75. ELLEN, ON  
11 BEHALF OF THE BOARD AND ALL OF US HAVE SIGNED THIS  
12 PROCLAMATION, YOU ARE A MODEL OF CIVIC INVOLVEMENT, YOU-- IF  
13 WE HAD ABOUT 10 PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN THIS COUNTY OR 10 MORE  
14 PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN THIS COUNTY, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT KIND  
15 OF PLACE. YOU HAVE REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE AND ALL OF US WANT  
16 TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS  
17 TO OUR COUNTY, AND WISH YOU MANY MORE YEARS OF HEALTH AND  
18 CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AREA. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

19

20 **ELLEN STERN HARRIS:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO SUPERVISOR ZEV AND  
21 TO THE REST OF THE BOARD, ALL OF WHOM I'VE ENJOYED WORKING  
22 WITH OVER MANY, MANY YEARS. MIKE, WHEN HE WAS IN THE STATE  
23 LEGISLATURE ON THE ISSUE OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, WHICH  
24 I SEE HAS RETURNED. AND MR. KNABE, WHEN, LONG AGO, HE WAS  
25 CONCERNED ABOUT COASTAL ISSUES, I MET WITH HIM IN SUPERVISOR





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1 CHASE'S OFFICE. AND YVONNE AND I GO BACK BEFORE YVONNE WAS  
2 ELECTED AND I'M DELIGHTED THAT SHE'S DOING SO WELL. I WANT TO  
3 THANK ALL OF YOU FOR WORKING SO HARD WITH SUCH LIMITED  
4 RESOURCES. I'M SO GRATEFUL YOU WERE ABLE TO SAVE LOS AMIGOS.  
5 I'M SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE HOLLYWOOD  
6 BOWL ACCESSIBLE FOR THOSE OF US WITH DISABILITIES. IT'S A  
7 PERFECTLY WONDERFUL ARRANGEMENT AND I THINK WHAT YOU DID IN  
8 REVISING AND UPDATING THE ACOUSTICS HAS WORKED OUT  
9 BEAUTIFULLY. AND I JUST WANT ONE THING FOR THIS BOARD OF  
10 SUPERVISORS AND THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, THAT THERE BE NO  
11 FURTHER STATE MANDATED EXPENDITURES WITHOUT STATE FUNDS  
12 ACCOMPANYING THEM. [ APPLAUSE ]

13

14 **ELLEN STERN HARRIS:** THANK YOU AGAIN. [ APPLAUSE CONTINUES ]

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I THINK WE OUGHT TO SEND THAT RECORDING TO  
17 THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR.

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ELLEN KNOWS AN APPLAUSE LINE WHEN SHE HEARS  
20 IT. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IT'S MY PLEASURE TO CALL FORWARD DR.  
23 ELIZABETH NASH, WHO IS RETIRING THIS DECEMBER FROM HER  
24 POSITION AS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
25 REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CENTER LOCATED IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.



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1 THIS REGIONAL OCCUPATION CENTER IS A PARTNERSHIP OF SEVEN  
2 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IT PROVIDES JOB TRAINING AND  
3 EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS IN  
4 AND AROUND THE SOUTH BAY COMMUNITY. DR. NASH'S CAREER BEGAN  
5 SOME 30 YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS RECRUITED TO TEACH BANKING AT  
6 THE S.C.R.O.C. AND, DURING HER LONG CAREER THERE, SHE HAS  
7 RECEIVED SEVERAL PROMOTIONS AND SERVED THE LAST 18 YEARS AS  
8 ITS SUPERINTENDENT. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION HAS VASTLY IMPROVED  
9 IN OUR SOUTH BAY REGION DUE TO THE HIGH STANDARDS,  
10 PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT TO HER STUDENTS AND LEADERSHIP  
11 ABILITIES DEMONSTRATED BY OUR GOOD FRIEND, DR. NASH. SHE HAS  
12 EARNED THE GENUINE RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP OF ALL WHO HAVE HAD  
13 THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH HER. SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS  
14 HONORS, INCLUDING A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION FROM EL CAMINO  
15 COLLEGE, WOMAN OF THE YEAR FROM THE Y.W.C.A. AND THE 2002  
16 SWITZER CENTER WOMAN OF THE YEAR. IN HER SPARE TIME, SHE'S A  
17 PROFESSOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LEARNS DOCTORATE EDUCATIONAL  
18 LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. SO, ON  
19 BEHALF MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES, WE JUST WANT TO PRESENT YOU  
20 WITH THIS SCROLL IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR INCREDIBLE CAREER BUT,  
21 MORE IMPORTANTLY, JUST A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT. I KNOW  
22 YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ON WORKING. I ASKED WHAT SHE HAD PLANNED,  
23 AND JUST MORE WORK BUT SHE HAS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND TO ALL OF  
24 US AND BEEN A VITAL, IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOUTH BAY  
25 COMMUNITY, SO WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO YOU AND TO ALL THOSE



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1 LIVES THAT YOU'VE TOUCHED, WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. [

2 APPLAUSE ]

3

4 **DR. ELIZABETH NASH:** HONORABLE SUPERVISORS, HONORABLE DON  
5 KNABE, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS RECOGNITION TODAY. I ACCEPT  
6 IT ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF, STUDENTS, BOARD OF EDUCATION AND  
7 THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL  
8 OCCUPATIONAL CENTER. MY SUCCESS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THEIR  
9 SUPPORT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE TOM MARTIN FOR HIS  
10 WONDERFUL WORK THAT HE HAS DONE IN THE SOUTH BAY REPRESENTING  
11 THE SUPERVISOR. AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH. IF I MAY, I'D LIKE  
12 TO INTRODUCE MY GUEST. I HAVE WITH ME MY SISTER-IN-LAW,  
13 DARLENE LOVE, LONG-TIME FRIEND, DOROTHY HILL, MY BOARD  
14 PRESIDENT, ROBIN SHAW FROM REDONDO BEACH, OUR DIRECTOR OF  
15 HUMAN RESOURCES, FRAN BOUSO FROM THE CENTER, MY SISTER, MARY  
16 FITTIN AND MY BOARD MEMBER FROM PALOS VERDES, GABRIELA HOLT.  
17 THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE AND, AGAIN, THANK YOU, DON  
18 KNABE, FOR YOUR WONDERFUL LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUTH BAY. THANK  
19 YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NEXT, I'D LIKE TO CALL ON SUPERVISOR MOLINA  
22 AND ALSO TO CALL UP ITEM NUMBER 19.

23

24 **SUP. MOLINA:** THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I'M PROUD THIS MORNING  
25 TO BE JOINED BY THE STUDENTS AND THE TEACHERS FROM HOLLENBECK



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1 MIDDLE SCHOOL. THE STUDENTS ARE MARIA ALMOS, MANUEL MARTHA AND  
2 LUIS FALDORADO. THE TEACHERS HERE TODAY ARE GARDENIA GONZALEZ,  
3 JULIE MAHARAJ, CHRISTINE ROSSER AND BERNIE CARASKO. MONTHS  
4 AGO, I RECEIVED A PETITION AND A LETTER FROM MRS. GONZALEZ.  
5 SHE WAS ALERTING ME ABOUT THE ALARMING SITUATION IN OUR  
6 COMMUNITY. MISS GONZALEZ HAD SENT THIS LETTER AND A PETITION  
7 WITH OVER 600 SIGNATURES FROM ALL THE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL.  
8 I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE TASK THAT THEY WERE UNDERTAKING. THEY  
9 WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POISONOUS CANDY THAT WAS BEING SOLD  
10 IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THERE ARE PICTURES OF IT HERE. THEY HAD  
11 DONE A RESEARCH PROJECT IN HER CLASS. THE STUDENTS HAD  
12 COMPLETED AN OUTLINE AND HAD TALKED ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS  
13 OF LEAD IN CANDY. THESE STUDENTS WERE VERY DEDICATED. THEY  
14 WENT OUT ON THEIR OWN AND PURCHASED LEAD-TESTING KITS FROM THE  
15 INTERNET AND DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS LEAD IN MANY OF THE  
16 CANDY THAT WAS SOLD IN THEIR COMMUNITY. AND SO THEY REALLY  
17 WANTED TO LET THE COMMUNITY KNOW THAT MANY OF THESE CANDIES  
18 THAT ARE SO POPULAR IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY DID CONTAIN LEAD  
19 AND THAT IF WE ALL KNOW THAT IF YOU CONSUME ENOUGH LEAD OR  
20 HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD, IT CAN LEAD TO VERY SERIOUS HEALTH  
21 PROBLEMS, INCLUDING DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN AND THE NERVOUS  
22 SYSTEM. OF COURSE, THE MAJOR CONSEQUENCES OF LEAD POISONING IN  
23 CHILDREN INCLUDE DELAYED MENTAL DEVELOPMENT, LOWER I.Q.,  
24 HEARING IMPAIRMENT, DEVELOPMENT DELAYS IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
25 AND SHORT ATTENTION SPANS. INSTEAD OF JUST WONDERING AND



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1 WALLING IN THEIR SHOCK AND ANGER, THESE STUDENTS DECIDED TO  
2 TAKE AN ACTION. THEY DESIGNED AN AWARENESS PROGRAM ABOUT THE  
3 HEALTH DANGERS OF HIGH LEAD IN THE IMPORTED CANDY, THEY WALKED  
4 THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD, CREATED POSTERS, WROTE PETITIONS AND SPOKE  
5 TO LOCAL MERCHANTS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE TOXIC LEAD IN  
6 CANDY. AS A RESULT, SOME OF THE MERCHANTS EVEN AGREED  
7 VOLUNTARILY TO REMOVE THESE CANDIES FROM THEIR STORE SHELVES  
8 BUT THEIR COMMITMENT DIDN'T STOP THERE. AFTER COMPLETING THEIR  
9 RESEARCH, THEY PRESENTED THEIR FINDINGS TO THE LOS ANGELES  
10 UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD AND THEY WROTE THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS,  
11 INCLUDING MYSELF, REQUESTING THAT THESE CANDIES BE REMOVED  
12 FROM THE SHELVES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, AFTER RECEIVING THEIR  
13 INFORMATION, I WAS IMMEDIATELY IMPRESSED BY THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE  
14 ACTIVISM AND THEIR CIVIC-MINDEDNESS. AND, IN TURN, I WAS  
15 ALARMED AS WELL THAT, DESPITE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG  
16 ADMINISTRATION WARNINGS, THESE CANDIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.  
17 WITH HALLOWEEN QUICKLY APPROACHING, WE ALL KNOW THAT PARENTS  
18 AND CHILDREN NEED TO BE WARNED ABOUT THE HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD  
19 IN MANY OF THESE CANDIES. TO THIS END, THE HOLLENBECK STUDENTS  
20 AND TEACHERS HAVE JOINED WITH ME TODAY AND WE HAVE A MOTION  
21 HERE TODAY CREATING AN ORDINANCE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF  
22 REMOVING THESE CANDIES FROM OUR GROCER'S SHELVES, THEY DO  
23 CONTAIN LEAD. WE'RE NOT SURE IF THE LEAD IS IN THE INGREDIENTS  
24 THAT ARE USED OR IN THE WRAPPING OR IN THE PROCESSING BUT  
25 THESE ARE ALL CANDIES THAT ARE IMPORTED FROM MEXICO AND, IN





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1 THE TESTING, SOME OF THEM CONTAIN NO LEAD AT ALL BUT THE  
2 MAJORITY OF THEM DO. SO WE ARE DEMANDING THAT THEY BE TAKEN  
3 OFF THE SHELVES BUT I'M PARTICULARLY PROUD TO ASK THE STUDENTS  
4 TO COME UP AND PRESENT THEIR OWN TESTIMONIALS BECAUSE THEIR  
5 INVOLVEMENT OF THIS AND THEIR TENACITY IS SOMETHING THAT IS  
6 VERY, VERY IMPRESSIVE, NOT ONLY TO OUR COMMUNITY BUT SHOULD BE  
7 TO EVERYONE ELSE. SO LET ME INVITE THE STUDENTS UP.

8

9 **SPEAKER:** WE ARE NINTH GRADERS. WE ARE NINTH STUDENTS FROM  
10 ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL. WE GRADUATED FROM HOLLENBECK MIDDLE  
11 SCHOOL AND WE, TOGETHER WITH OUR TEACHERS, WOULD LIKE TO SHARE  
12 WITH YOU THE PROJECT WE DID LAST YEAR, LEAD IN MEXICAN  
13 CANDIES. BORN IN BOYLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY, WE ENJOY MANY KIND  
14 OF MEXICAN CANDIES AND HAVE ARGUED WITH OUR TEACHERS THAT IT  
15 IS NONTOXIC. CHALLENGES TO STUDY USING SCIENTIFIC METHODS, OUR  
16 TEACHERS, WE ASKED WHAT IS LEAD? HOW DOES LEAD AFFECT US? HOW  
17 CAN WE INFORM OTHERS? HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT? WHERE CAN WE FIND  
18 HELP?

19

20 **SPEAKER:** WE'RE CONCERNED OF OUR-- ABOUT THE CHILDREN THAT WERE  
21 EATING THIS CANDY, SO WE MADE THE POSTERS. IN OUR PARENT  
22 CONFERENCE NIGHT, WE TOLD ALL OUR PARENTS THAT-- WE GAVE THEM  
23 BROCHURES IN BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH AND TOLD THEM ABOUT THE  
24 HARMFUL THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN EATING MEXICAN



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1 CANDY THAT CONTAINS LEAD. WE MADE A PETITION. I WOULD LIKE TO  
2 PRESENT MY FRIEND, MANUEL MATA.

3

4 **MANUEL MATA:** WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER 600 SIGNATURES TO PREVENT  
5 STORES FROM SELLING THESE TOXIC CANDIES. WE ARE DEDICATED IN  
6 MAKING THIS CHANGE HAPPEN IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WE ARE ASKING  
7 FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU.

8

9 **SUP. MOLINA:** I WANT TO THANK THE STUDENTS. YOU CAN SEE HOW  
10 TENACIOUS THEY'VE BEEN. THEY'VE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THAT THIS  
11 IS A VERY DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY'VE BEEN  
12 PASSING OUT FLIERS. IS THIS CORRECT, THIS IS ONE OF THE ONES  
13 YOU'VE PASSED OUT? THEY'VE GONE TO GROCERY STORES. WHAT WE ARE  
14 DOING TODAY IS WE HAVE AN ORDINANCE ON THE BOARD AGENDA THAT  
15 WE'RE DIRECTING COUNTY COUNSEL TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE BANNING  
16 THE SALE OF CANDY THAT IS CONTAINING TOXIC LEAD, THAT WE  
17 DIRECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS TO SEND LETTERS TO GROCERS  
18 COUNTYWIDE REQUESTING THE VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF CANDY  
19 CONTAINING LEAD, THAT WE DIRECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE TO  
20 COMPLETE RANDOM TESTING OF THESE CANDIES THAT ARE KNOWN BY THE  
21 F.D.A. TO EXHIBIT EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD AND TO  
22 PUBLICIZE THOSE RESULTS. WE'RE ASKING THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
23 OFFICER DISTRIBUTE EDUCATIONAL POSTERS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE  
24 THAT YOU SEE HERE TO SCHOOLS, CHILDCARE PROVIDERS, EMERGENCY  
25 ROOMS AND HEALTH CENTERS AND TO OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS BY



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1 PROVIDING INFORMATION TO PARENTS AND DEVELOPING A CURRICULUM  
2 ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF CANDY. WHAT'S AMAZING ABOUT ALL OF  
3 THIS. IF YOU EVER GO INTO ANY OF THE SMALL GROCERY STORES AND  
4 LIQUOR STORES IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY, THIS CANDY IS PREVALENT  
5 AND YOU SEE CHILDREN SUCKING ON THESE LOLLIPOPS ALL THE TIME  
6 BUT IT IS A REAL PROBLEM. AND I'M SO PROUD OF THESE STUDENTS  
7 TOOK THE ACTION THAT THEY DID. WE'RE GOING TO PASS AN  
8 ORDINANCE TO ASK THEM TO TAKE IT OFF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A  
9 PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN THAT'S GOING TO BE LED BY OUR  
10 PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS AND WE ARE GOING TO BE PART OF YOUR  
11 CAUSE THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US HERE AND SO VERY PROUD THAT YOU  
12 DID SO. I WANTED YOU TO CONNECT THAT SOMETIMES WHEN YOU WRITE  
13 TO POLITICIANS, WHEN YOU WRITE TO PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT, THAT  
14 THEY TAKE THE ACTION AND THAT EVERYBODY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
15 AND I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE HERE AND GOING TO GO BACK TO THE  
16 SCHOOL AND SHARE WITH THEM THAT THE ACTIONS THAT YOU HAVE  
17 TAKEN CAN MAKE A DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE. WE KNOW THAT LEAD AT ANY  
18 LEVEL CAN CONTAIN-- CAN HAVE ALL KINDS OF HEALTH PROBLEMS,  
19 PARTICULARLY IN CHILDREN SO WE ARE VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOUR  
20 ACTIONS. I'M GOING TO ASK MISS GONZALEZ TO COME UP AND TALK TO  
21 US AS WELL. THE REASON IS THAT YOU VERY RARELY FIND THE KIND  
22 OF TEACHER THAT IS DEDICATED AND COMMITTED TO DEMONSTRATE TO  
23 THEIR STUDENTS THAT THEY CAN TAKE ACTION IN GOVERNMENT, THAT  
24 IT ISN'T SOME FAR DISTANT PLACE THAT IS NON-RESPONSIVE BUT  
25 THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THE CHANGES AND SO



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1 I'M VERY PROUD TO PRESENT THEIR TEACHER, MISS GONZALEZ, WHO  
2 WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS. PLEASE JOIN US, MISS GONZALEZ.

3

4 **MISS GONZALEZ:** GOOD MORNING. THIS NOT ONLY WAS MY WORK BUT  
5 WORK OF FOUR COLLEAGUES TOGETHER, WE WORK AS A TEAM. EACH OF  
6 US TEACHES A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, SO WE FOCUS ON EACH ASPECT OF  
7 THE PROJECT BASED ON THE SUBJECT, EITHER IF IT WAS GRAPHING  
8 WITH MATH, THE PETITIONS WITH MY SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS, THE  
9 WRITING OF THE BROCHURES AND THE RESEARCH WITH MISS ROSSER AND  
10 MR. KARASKO, AND, TOGETHER, I MEAN, IT WAS ALL PRETTY MUCH  
11 BASED ON STUDENT INQUIRY OF MARIA HERSELF WHO WAS DOING-- SHE  
12 WAS DOING JUST A RESEARCH ON LEAD AND THIS-- THE TOPIC OF THE  
13 CANDIES CAME UP, SO WE JUST CHANGED THE ASSIGNMENT TO LET'S  
14 RESEARCH MORE INTO THIS LEAD FOUND IN THIS CANDY AND SO IT'S  
15 THE WORK OF THE STUDENTS AND THEIR INQUIRY AND THEIR DESIRE TO  
16 DO PETITIONS THAT GOT THIS THING MOVING. WE WERE JUST KIND OF  
17 LIKE HELPING FACILITATE THAT BUT THEY ARE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT  
18 US HERE TODAY. THANK YOU.

19

20 **SUP. MOLINA:** I THINK THEY ALL DESERVE CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL  
21 OF US. I KNOW I'M VERY PROUD OF THEM. I WANT TO MAKE A  
22 PRESENTATION TO HOLLENBECK MIDDLE SCHOOL. CONGRATULATIONS. [  
23 APPLAUSE ]

24



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1    **SUP. MOLINA:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO MOVE THE ITEM, ITEM  
2    NUMBER 19.

3

4    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR MOLINA, THE CHAIR WILL  
5    SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

6

7    **SPEAKER:** WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MS. MOLINA FOR RESPONDING TO  
8    THE CHILDREN SO QUICKLY. THE CHILDREN-- THIS IS A VERY  
9    IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR THE CHILDREN BECAUSE, ONCE THEY FOUND OUT  
10    THAT THERE WAS LEAD IN MEXICAN CANDY AND THAT THEY WERE EATING  
11    IT AND THEIR LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE EATING IT, FIRST  
12    THEY DENIED IT BUT THROUGH SCIENTIFIC-- USING THE SCIENTIFIC  
13    METHOD, THROUGH RESEARCH AND LEAD TESTING OF THE CANDY ITSELF,  
14    DOING A SURVEY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THEY FOUND IT TO BE TRUE  
15    AND THEY WERE APPALLED, SAYING "HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN IN THE  
16    UNITED STATES? HOW CAN CHILDREN EAT CANDY WITH LEAD IN IT AND  
17    IT GET PAST THE GOVERNMENT?" AND I SAID, "WELL, SIMPLY,  
18    THEY'RE BRINGING IT ACROSS THE BORDER. THEY'RE NOT INSPECTING  
19    IT. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?" BECAUSE THEY KEPT ON  
20    ASKING, "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?" AND I SAID, "WHAT ARE YOU  
21    GOING TO DO?" AND MISS GONZALEZ AND MISS MAHARAJ AND MR.  
22    KAROSCO, WE ALL GOT TOGETHER, WORKED VERY HARD WITH THE  
23    CHILDREN AND MS. MOLINA ANSWERED OUR REQUEST IMMEDIATELY. THIS  
24    WAS NOT THE ONLY LETTER THAT WAS SENT OUT. I WOULD LIKE TO  
25    THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY AND BECAUSE





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1 YOU KNOW THAT IT'S OUR CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN OF THE L.A.  
2 UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE THE ONES THAT ARE EATING ALL OF  
3 THIS CANDY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

4

5 **SUP. MOLINA:** THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YOU'RE WELCOME, SUPERVISOR MOLINA. ARE  
8 THERE ANY OTHER PRESENTATIONS? OKAY. WE'VE HAD A---SUPERVISOR  
9 ANTONOVICH IS FIRST ON SPECIALS. WE DO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING.  
10 I'VE HAD A REQUEST FROM SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH'S OFFICE, DUE TO  
11 A TIME ISSUE, TO CALL ITEMS 12 AND 13 UNDER THE PUBLIC  
12 HEARING, THAT THERE'S A TIME CONSIDERATION. SO WE WILL ASK THE  
13 AFFECTED STAFF MEMBERS TO COME FORWARD AND MAKE THEIR  
14 PRESENTATION FIRST. ITEM NUMBER 12.

15

16 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** CAN I HAVE ALL THOSE WHO PLAN TO TESTIFY  
17 BEFORE THE BOARD TODAY TO PLEASE STAND AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT  
18 HAND TO BE SWORN IN.

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF YOU PLAN TO TESTIFY, PLEASE STAND AND  
21 RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

22

23 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** AT THIS POINT, THIS WOULD BE ON ALL  
24 ITEMS. [ ADMINISTERING OATH ]

25



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1 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** THANK YOU. PLEASE BE SEATED.

2

3 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I KNOW THAT THERE'S A LOT OF CONVERSATION  
4 GOING ON. IF WE COULD HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE. WE HAVE A  
5 NUMBER OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS AND WE WANT TO GIVE EACH ITEM  
6 THEIR PROPER DUE, SO IF WE COULD HAVE YOUR ATTENTION. IF YOU  
7 NEED TO HAVE ANY LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS, IF YOU'D JUST STEP  
8 OUTSIDE AND COME BACK IN, PLEASE, WE'D APPRECIATE IT. FIRST OF  
9 ALL, ITEM NUMBER 12.

10

11 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 12 IS A COMBINED HEARING ON  
12 ZONE CHANGE AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CASE NUMBER 03-117-5 TO  
13 AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A MARKET AND GAS  
14 STATION AND THE SALE OF A FULL LINE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR  
15 OFF-SITE CONSUMPTION FROM THE PROPOSED MARKET LOCATED AT 16166  
16 SPUNKY CANYON ROAD, GREEN VALLEY, BOUQUET CANYON ZONED  
17 DISTRICT, PETITIONED BY FADEL HANNOUN. WE HAVE ONE WRITTEN  
18 PROTEST.

19

20 **RUSSELL FRICANO:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, GOOD  
21 MORNING. I AM RUSSELL FRICANO, THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL  
22 PLANNING, AND TO MY LEFT IS KEVIN JOHNSON, THE PLANNER FOR  
23 THIS CASE. IN THIS CASE, THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTING A ZONE  
24 CHANGE TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE IN ZONING ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY  
25 FROM R1-7500, WHICH IS SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE, 7500-SQUARE-



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1 FOOT MINIMUM AND C-2, NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS, TO C-2 DP,  
2 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IT ALSO HAS  
3 REQUESTED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO AUTHORIZE THE  
4 ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A MARKETING GAS STATION AND THE  
5 SALE OF A FULL LINE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-SITE  
6 CONSUMPTION. THIS WOULD BE AT THE PROPOSED MARKET. THE  
7 PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 16166 SPUNKY CANYON ROAD IN GREEN  
8 VALLEY. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS-- HAS BEEN PREPARED  
9 ASSOCIATION WITH THIS PROJECT. THIS CASE WAS HEARD BY THE  
10 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ON SEPTEMBER 8TH OF 2004 TO HAVE  
11 THE TESTIFIERS PRESENT TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE REQUEST. FOUR  
12 OF THE TESTIFIERS PRESENTED OPPOSITION TESTIMONY. AFTER THE  
13 HEARING, THE COMMISSION CLOSED THE HEARING AND EXPRESSED ITS  
14 INTENT TO APPROVE THE PROJECT. THE ZONE CHANGE WAS FORMALLY  
15 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL ON SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2004. STAFF  
16 SUPPORTS THE COMMISSION'S ACTION. SUBSEQUENT TO THE REGIONAL  
17 PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING, STAFF RECEIVED A LETTER DATED  
18 SEPTEMBER 29TH FROM TESTIFIERS OPPOSED TO THIS CASE. THIS  
19 INCLUDED TRAFFIC, NOISE, CRIME, AIR QUALITY AND POTENTIAL  
20 HEALTH RISKS. AND THAT CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION.

21  
22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?  
23 OKAY. IS THERE ANYONE SIGNED UP TO SPEAK ON ITEM NUMBER 12?  
24 OKAY. IF NOT, THE ITEM IS BEFORE US.



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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IS THIS-- IS THIS PLACE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE  
2   OF GREEN VALLEY? IS THIS THE EXISTING GAS STATION THERE?

3

4   **RUSSELL FURCANO:** THE GAS STATION IS RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF GREEN  
5   VALLEY ALONG SPUNKY CANYON ROAD AND SAN FRANCISQUITO CANYON  
6   ROAD ON THE FAR NORTHERLY EDGE OF THE COMMUNITY. IT'S NOT  
7   RIGHT IN THE CENTER. THE EXISTING MARKET...

8

9   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IT'S A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN I THOUGHT. ALL  
10   RIGHT. THANK YOU.

11

12   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** I WOULD MOVE IT WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT IT BE  
13   RESTRICTED TO BEER AND WINE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ONLY.

14

15   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THEN THE ITEM IS BEFORE US. IT WOULD  
16   BE SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH MOVES WITH THE RESTRICTION TO JUST  
17   BEER AND WINE. CHAIR WILL SECOND IT. ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS?  
18   SO ORDERED. ITEM NUMBER 13.

19

20   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** COMBINED HEARING ON ZONE CHANGE CASE AND  
21   CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, CASE NUMBER 02-301-5 TO ENSURE  
22   COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
23   PROGRAM ZONE INVESTING TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP CASE NUMBER 26903-  
24   5 TO CREATE 5 LOTS WITH FIVE NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ON  
25   PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AVENUE "N" AND



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1 50TH STREET WEST, QUARTZ HILL ZONE DISTRICT. PETITIONED BY  
2 WORLD PREMIER INVESTMENTS. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. STAFF REPORT, PLEASE.

5

6 **ELLEN FITZGERALD:** GOOD MORNING, SUPERVISORS. I'M ELLEN  
7 FITZGERALD, SUPERVISING REGIONAL PLANNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
8 OF REGIONAL PLANNING. PROJECT 02-301 IS A REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE  
9 A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON A 4.88-ACRE SITE AT THE NORTHWEST  
10 CORNER OF AVENUE "N" AND 50TH STREET WEST IN THE COMMUNITY OF  
11 QUARTZ HILL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY VACANT. THERE  
12 ARE VACANT PROPERTIES AND SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES TO THE  
13 NORTH, EAST AND WEST. TO THE SOUTH WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF  
14 THE CITY OF PALMDALE IS A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTLY  
15 UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE EXISTING ZONING IS A1-10,000 AND THE  
16 PROPERTY IS DESIGNATED URBAN 1-1/2. ANTELOPE VALLEY AREA-WIDE  
17 PLAN... [ GAVEL ]

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** EXCUSE ME. IF I COULD HAVE YOUR ATTENTION  
20 OUT THERE, PLEASE. THERE'S A LOT OF CONVERSATION GOING ON.  
21 WE'RE TRYING TO GIVE EACH ITEM ITS DUE. SO IF YOU HAVE A  
22 SIGNIFICANT CONVERSATION TO TAKE PLACE, PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE.  
23 THANK YOU. YES, MA'AM?

24



**The Meeting Transcript of  
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1   **ELLEN FITZGERALD:** THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN  
2   REQUESTED UNDER THE UNMAPPED NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL CATEGORY  
3   OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY PLAN. THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
4   CONDUCTED A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL ON JUNE 9TH, 2004.  
5   THE COMMISSION REVIEWED THE APPLICANT'S SITE PLAN WHICH  
6   DEPICTS FIVE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH A  
7   DRUGSTORE, RESTAURANTS, RETAIL STORES AND A BANK. COMMENTS  
8   RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION INCLUDED CORRESPONDENCE IN THE CITY  
9   OF PALMDALE ADDRESSING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND CONCERNS  
10   RELATED TO THE PROJECT'S POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ADJACENT  
11   RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOUND  
12   THAT THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE  
13   UNMAPPED NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL CATEGORY OF THE ANTELOPE  
14   VALLEY PLAN, THAT MODIFIED CONDITIONS WARRANTED REVISION TO  
15   THE ZONING AND REQUIRED CONDITIONS DESIGNED TO LIMIT IMPACTS  
16   ON NEARBY PROPERTIES. ON AUGUST 11TH, 2004, THE COMMISSION  
17   VOTED 5-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT AND ADOPTION OF  
18   THE ASSOCIATED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION. THAT CONCLUDES  
19   MY PRESENTATION.

20  
21   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS OF STAFF? NOW  
22   WE'LL OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING. WE HAVE ONE PERSON SIGNED UP,  
23   TERRY VENEZLA. OKAY. PASS. OKAY. THANK YOU. OKAY, SUPERVISOR  
24   ANTONOVICH, THE ITEM IS BEFORE US.





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1    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MOVE IT.

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THE ITEM IS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR  
4    ANTONOVICH. SECONDED BY THE CHAIR. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO  
5    ORDERED.

6

7    **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I'M SORRY, IN THIS  
8    MATTER, I'D LIKE TO ADD THAT WE HAVE THE ZONE CHANGE ORDINANCE  
9    AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION TODAY, SO THAT MOTION CAN INCLUDE  
10    ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE.

11

12    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ALL OF THAT IN ONE MOTION, THEN?

13

14    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** YES.

15

16    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. AS CLARIFIED, SO ORDERED. OKAY. BACK,  
17    THEN, ITEM NUMBER 1.

18

19    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 1, HEARING TO CONSIDER  
20    REQUESTS FROM THE SHERIFF AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE  
21    APPROPRIATION OF \$397,000 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
22    SERVICES FUNDS FOR FRONT LINE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. WE  
23    HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

24



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IS THERE ANYONE SIGNED UP FOR THE PUBLIC  
2    HEARING? OKAY. THEN THE CHAIR WILL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.  
3    THE ITEM IS BEFORE US. MOVED... [ NULL ]

4

5    **JULIO GIRON:** [ INTERJECTIONS ]

6

7    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I MOVE THAT WE HEAR FROM JULIO GIRON.

8

9    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH. JULIO?

10

11    **JULIO GIRON:** YES, SIR.

12

13    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DID YOU SIGN UP FOR ITEM NUMBER 1?

14

15    **JULIO GIRON:** ITEM 1, YES.

16

17    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, YOU'RE ON.

18

19    **JULIO GIRON:** GOOD MORNING. I'M GOING TO DO THIS STANDING. I'M  
20    NOT A PREACHER. BUT THE MESSAGE IS...

21

22    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JULIO, YOU CAN SIT DOWN, PLEASE.

23

24    **JULIO GIRON:** IS ITEM NUMBER 1, I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE-- MY  
25    TIME IS RUNNING. DID YOU MIND, MR. CHAIRMAN?



**The Meeting Transcript of  
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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. GO AHEAD.

3

4 **JULIO GIRON:** I'M NOT A TALL GUY SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID  
5 OF ME. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MR.  
6 YAROSLAVSKY TALKING IN PRIVATE TO SOMEBODY THERE, IT MIGHT BE  
7 SOMETHING IMPORTANT. THIS IS A MESSAGE THAT WE-- EVERY SINGLE  
8 MINUTE IMPORTANT, THIS IS A MESSAGE SINCE I COME TO THIS  
9 MEETINGS, WE HAVE NOT SEEN-- WE HAVE NOT SEEN ONE TIME WHEN  
10 THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS NOT CRYING FOR MONEY. THANK YOU,  
11 MR. ANTONOVICH, WHO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO SUPPORTED US "NO" ON  
12 MEASURE "A." WE ARE TIRED OF THIS PAYING MORE TAXES AND GIVING  
13 MORE MONEY TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE  
14 NOT VERY EFFECTIVE. SEE THE LIST ON THE NEWSPAPER OF THE  
15 PEOPLE WHO IS GIVING MONEY TO IMPOSE ON THE PEOPLE OF THE  
16 COUNTY MORE TAXES? SOMEBODY WHO CRY, MR. YAROSLAVSKY, ABOUT  
17 THE HOLOCAUST ALL THE TIME, MR. STEVEN SPIELBERG FROM THE CITY  
18 OF LONG BEACH, GIVING MONEY SO WE CAN PAY MORE TAXES. THE GUY  
19 WHO SPEAK ESPANOL, THE C.E.O. FOR UNIVISION, JERROLD  
20 PERENCHIO, WHERE'S THE CAMERA? [ SPEAKING SPANISH ] WE DON'T  
21 WANT TO PAY, WE DON'T NEED TO PAY MORE TAXES IN THE COUNTY IF  
22 THE SHERIFFS, BEGINNING WITH LEE BACA DOWN TO THE JANITOR AND,  
23 MR. CHAIRMAN, UNFORTUNATELY, YOU SUPPORTING THIS MEASURE. WE  
24 DON'T NEED TO PAY MORE TAXES IN L.A. COUNTY AND, WHEN WE SEE  
25 LEROY BACA DOWN TO THE JANITOR AND THE COUNTY, SHERIFF'S



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1 COUNTY ASKING FOR MORE MONEY, ONE THING CAN COME OUT ONLY.  
2 THEY OWE TOO MUCH MONEY AND, IF THEY CANNOT PAY THEIR MORTGAGE  
3 NO MORE, IF THEY CANNOT PAY THEIR CAR PAYMENTS NO MORE, THAT'S  
4 NOT OUR PROBLEM IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, THAT IS THEIR  
5 PROBLEM. OKAY? [ APPLAUSE ]

6

7 **JULIO GIRON:** FIND ANOTHER JOB. I WORK FULL TIME AND PART-TIME  
8 TO SUPPORT MYSELF. I THINK, FROM LEROY BACA DOWN TO THE  
9 CUSTODIAN AND THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, THEY CAN DO THE SAME  
10 THING. "NO" ON MEASURE "A". ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE OWNER STAPLE  
11 CENTER WHERE THOSE PEOPLE PLAY BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY AND  
12 WHATEVER THEY PLAY, THEY ALSO WANT US TO PAY MORE TAXES. THAT  
13 IS A NO. NO. MR. ANTONOVICH, THANK YOU FOR NOT SUPPORTING  
14 MEASURE "A". AND LIKE JANET JACKSON SAYS, SPANK THE BACK DOOR  
15 HARD. WE SAY "NO" ON MEASURE "A". VOTE "NO" ON MEASURE "A" ON  
16 NOVEMBER 2!

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JULIO, JUST FOR YOUR RECORDS, I SUPPORTED  
21 PUTTING IT ON THE BALLOT. I DO NOT SUPPORT MEASURE "A" SO YOU-  
22 - SO THAT'S BEEN CLARIFIED. SO YOU KNOW THAT. ITEM NUMBER 2.  
23 THE ITEM IS BEFORE US. SO ORDERED. THE ITEM NUMBER 2. WE HAVE  
24 PUBLIC AUCTION.

25



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** CAN I GET A MOTION ON ITEM 1?

2

3 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE DID.

4

5 **JULIA GIRON:** [INDISTINGUISHABLE] [ INTERJECTIONS ]

6

7 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SECOND.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, IT'S A FOUR-VOTE ITEM. OKAY. MOVED BY  
10 SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT  
11 OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

12

13 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 2 IS SALE OF THE COUNTY'S  
14 RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN AND TO THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED  
15 AT 300 EAST ROSECRANS AVENUE IN THE CITY OF COMPTON. THE  
16 PROPERTY CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 38,260 SQUARE FEET OF LAND  
17 ZONED C-L, CITY OF COMPTON, LIMITED COMMERCIAL AND IS IMPROVED  
18 WITH A 13,996-SQUARE-FOOT SINGLE STORY BUILDING. THE PROPERTY  
19 AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ARE BEING SOLD IN AS-IS CONDITION  
20 WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION BY THE COUNTY. THE  
21 PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD FOR CASH WITH A MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID  
22 OF \$465,000. THE OPENING BID IS THEREFORE SET AT \$465,000. THE  
23 SUCCESSFUL BIDDER MUST SIGN A SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND  
24 DEPOSIT THE FIRST \$25,000 IN CASH OR CASHIER'S CHECK WITH THE  
25 COUNTY AT THE COMPLETION OF THE BIDDING. THE BALANCE WILL BE



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1 DUE AND PAYABLE WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM TODAY. ALL TERMS AND  
2 CONDITIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL  
3 MUST BE MET BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSFER OF THE COUNTY'S  
4 TITLE AND POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. EVERYONE HAS A NUMBER, IS THAT  
7 CORRECT? OR A LETTER OR-- OKAY. WE NEED AN OPENING BID-- DO WE  
8 HAVE AN OPENING BID?

9

10 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** \$465,000.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE DO HAVE A SUBMITTED BID OF \$465,000. DO  
13 I HEAR 475? GOT 470-- HOLD YOUR NUMBER UP. I GOT 475,000. DO I  
14 HEAR 485? 485,000 FOR NUMBER FOUR. DO I HEAR 495? GOT 485--  
15 495 RIGHT HERE. DO I HEAR 505? 505,000? OKAY. YOU KNOW, YOU  
16 CAN-- I'M JUST DOING IT 10,000. IF YOU WANT TO DO 25,000, GO  
17 AHEAD, TOO. I GOT 505,000 HERE FOR NUMBER SIX. DO I HEAR 515?  
18 515,000 RIGHT THERE, NUMBER TWO. DO I HEAR 525? 525? 525. 535?  
19 535? 545? I'VE GOT 545,000 HERE FOR NUMBER SIX. DO I HEAR 555?  
20 I'VE GOT 555. 565? 560? SLOWING ME DOWN HERE, HUH? 560,000  
21 RIGHT HERE. DO I HEAR 570? I'VE GOT \$560,000 RIGHT HERE.  
22 \$570,000. NUMBER SIX. I GOT 580? 580,000 FOR NUMBER TWO. I'VE  
23 GOT 580,000. 580,000 ONCE-- 85? 585,000. 590? 595? 600 FOR  
24 NUMBER SIX. 600,000 FOR NUMBER SIX. 610? 615? 615,000? 618--





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1 YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE MY MATH TOUGH NOW. 620, THANK YOU. ALL  
2 RIGHT. I APPRECIATE THAT. I GOT 620,000. 625?

3

4 **BIDDER:** 626. 626. ALL RIGHT. BRING THE CALCULATOR OUT. I GOT  
5 626. ALL RIGHT. [ LAUGHTER ]

6

7 **BIDDER:** 630.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 630,000. I GOT 630,000. DO I HEAR-- I'VE  
10 GOT 630,000. 630,000 ONCE. 635?

11

12 **BIDDER:** 640.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 640. 640,000, NUMBER SIX, 640,000. 640,000  
15 ONCE.

16

17 **BIDDER:** 650.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 650,000. 650,000. DO I HEAR 660? 650 ONCE.  
20 660?

21

22 **BIDDER:** 65.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 665. 665,000 DOLLARS. DO I HEAR 675?  
25 \$675,000. \$675,000 ONCE. WHAT WAS YOUR BID?



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1

2 **BIDDER:** 670.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 670.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 675,000. 675,000. SOMEBODY KEEPING TRACK OF  
7 THIS SO I DON'T GET LOST THERE? I'VE GOT 675,000 FOR NUMBER  
8 SIX. 680. 680,000 OVER HERE. WE'VE GOT 680,000 ONCE.

9

10 **BIDDER:** 690.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 690,000. 690,000.

13

14 **BIDDER:** 701.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 701,000 FOR NUMBER SIX, I'VE GOT 701,000.  
17 701,000.

18

19 **BIDDER:** 705.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 705,000. 705,000 ONCE.

22

23 **BIDDER:** 710.

24

25 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 710,000. 710,000 ONCE, 710,000 TWICE.



**The Meeting Transcript of  
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1

2 **BIDDER:** 15.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 715?

5

6 **BIDDER:** 726. 726? 726,000. THAT'S 726,000. OVER HERE FOR  
7 NUMBER SIX. 726,000. 730,000 FOR NUMBER ONE. I GOT 730,000.  
8 730,000 ONCE.

9

10 **BIDDER:** 735.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 735? \$735,000. \$735,000 FOR NUMBER TWO.

13

14 **BIDDER:** 40.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 740.

17

18 **BIDDER:** FIVE.

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 750,000 FOR NUMBER SIX. I'VE GOT 750,000.  
21 ONCE.

22

23 **BIDDER:** 760. 760? \$760,000. 765,000. 775,000? OKAY. 775,000.  
24 ONCE.

25



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1     **BIDDER:** 780.

2

3     **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 780. 780,000 ONCE. WHAT'S YOUR BID?

4

5     **BIDDER:** I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH IT IS.

6

7     **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IT'S 780,000.

8

9     **BIDDER:** 85.

10

11    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 785,000. SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU 2.1 MILLION,  
12    HUH? NO, NO. [ LAUGHTER ] I'VE GOT 785,000 OVER HERE. 785,000  
13    ONCE.

14

15    **BIDDER:** 90.

16

17    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** \$790,000.

18

19    **BIDDER:** 800. EIGHT.

20

21    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 800,000 RIGHT THERE FOR NUMBER FOUR, GOT  
22    800,000. ALL RIGHT. WHO WANTS TO GO 810? 810 FOR NUMBER TWO.  
23    820 FOR NUMBER SIX. 830? HANG ON. HANG ON JUST A SECOND. WHERE  
24    AM I HERE? 820?

25



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1 **BIDDER:** 820 NUMBER SIX.

2

3 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS? OKAY. SO-- ALL RIGHT.  
4 WE HAVE SOMEBODY JUST SIGNED UP.

5

6 **SPEAKER:** NUMBER NINE.

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NUMBER 9 RIGHT HERE. OKAY. ALL RIGHT.  
9 NUMBER 9, WE ARE AT \$820,000 FROM NUMBER SIX. I GOT 820,000  
10 FOR NUMBER SIX. DO I HEAR 830? 820,000 ONCE.

11

12 **BIDDER:** 830.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** \$830,000. 830 ONCE, TWICE...

15

16 **SPEAKER:** 35.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 835. I GOT \$835,000.

19

20 **BIDDER:** 40.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 840,000. I GOT 840,000 FOR NUMBER SIX.  
23 ONCE...

24

25 **BIDDER:** 845.



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 845. 845,000 ONCE. 850? 860? 860. 860,000  
3 FOR NUMBER SIX. I GOT 860. 860 ONCE.

4

5 **BIDDER:** 865.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 865. 865 ONCE...

8

9 **BIDDER:** 70.

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 870. 870 ONCE. 875. 875 ONCE, TWICE. 880.  
12 880,000.

13

14 **BIDDER:** 85.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 885,000. 885,000 ONCE, TWICE...

17

18 **BIDDER:** 890.

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 890. 890,000. 890,000 ONCE. 95? 895,000.

21

22 **BIDDER:** NINE.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 900,000? 900,000 ONCE.

25





**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1     **BIDDER:** 910.

2

3     **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** 910,000. 910,000 ONCE, TWICE, SOLD,  
4     \$910,000 TO NUMBER TWO. [ APPLAUSE ]

5

6     **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IT'S EXCITING.

7

8     **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES?

9

10    **SUP. BURKE:** I BELIEVE THAT THIS HAS BEEN BEFORE US A NUMBER OF  
11    TIMES, THIS AUCTION. COULD WE HAVE THEM GET THE NAMES OF THE  
12    PEOPLE SO THAT, IF ONE FALLS THROUGH, THAT THEY HAVE A BACKUP  
13    OFFER? COULD WE ASK REAL ESTATE? WHERE ARE THEY?

14

15    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** VERY GOOD IDEA.

16

17    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** FOR THOSE OF YOU-- EXCUSE ME. IF I COULD--  
18    FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT JUST FINISHED BIDDING, IF WE COULD GET--  
19    WE HAVE A SUCCESSFUL BIDDER BUT IN CASE SOMETHING DOESN'T  
20    HAPPEN, IF WE COULD HAVE YOUR NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR BACKUP,  
21    BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS SEVERAL TIMES, SUPERVISOR  
22    BURKE REMINDED ME, SO-- OKAY?

23

24    **SUP. BURKE:** REAL ESTATE, COULD WE MAKE SURE REAL ESTATE GETS  
25    THEIR NAMES?



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY? SO MAKE SURE REAL ESTATE GETS YOUR  
3 NAMES IF YOU ARE A BIDDER. ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
4 \$910,000.

5

6 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** COULD I HAVE A MOTION, THEN, TO AWARD  
7 TO-- FOR \$910,000.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** CHAIR WILL MOVE IT, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR  
10 BURKE. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

11

12 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** THANK YOU.

13

14 **SUP. BURKE:** I KNOW BUT THEY NEVER DO ANYTHING WITH THEM AND WE  
15 JUST KEEP COMING BACK.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. ITEM NUMBER 3.

18

19 **SUP. BURKE:** WE NEED A BACKUP.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE NEED A STAFF STATEMENT AND WE'LL HAVE TO  
22 COUNT THE BALLOTS.

23

24 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF APPROVED  
25 TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION TERRITORIES TO COUNTY LIGHTING



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1 MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS 1687 AND 1697 AND COUNTY LIGHTING  
2 DISTRICT LLA-1 UNINCORPORATED IN CARSON ZONES AND TO LEVY AND  
3 COLLECT ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR STREET LIGHTING PURPOSES. WE  
4 HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

7

8 **ANTHONY NYIVIH:** MY NAME IS ANTHONY NYIVIH AND I'M SENIOR CIVIL  
9 ENGINEER FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. I'M FAMILIAR WITH  
10 THESE PROCEEDINGS TO ANNEX TERRITORY INTO A LIGHTING  
11 MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1687 AND 1697 AND TO LIGHTING COUNTY  
12 DISTRICT LLA-1 UNINCORPORATED ZONE AND CARSON ZONES FOR THE  
13 FOUR APPROVED TENTATIVE SUBDIVISIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE BOARD  
14 LETTER. THE CONSENTED JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF CARSON HAS  
15 BEEN OBTAINED. IN MY OPINION, ALL OF THE TERRITORY WITHIN THE  
16 PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AREAS WOULD BE BENEFITED BY THE SERVICES  
17 TO BE PROVIDED AND THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN SPREAD  
18 IN PROPORTION TO THE BENEFIT TO BE RECEIVED. WE ALSO RECOMMEND  
19 THAT YOUR BOARD APPROVED THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX  
20 REVENUE WITH NONEXEMPT TAXING AGENCIES THAT WILL RESULT FROM  
21 THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY PROTESTS TO THE  
22 PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ANYONE SIGNED UP TO SPEAK? OKAY. DO  
25 WE HAVE-- WE'LL HAVE TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO COUNT IT?



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1

2 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** YES. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, IT WOULD BE  
3 APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO CLOSE THE HEARING, DIRECT THE  
4 TABULATION OF BALLOTS AND TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL LATER IN THE  
5 MEETING FOR TABULATION RESULTS AND ACTION BY YOUR BOARD.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. MOVED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE, SECONDED  
8 BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY. SO ORDERED. WE'LL TABLE THIS ITEM  
9 TO COUNT THE BALLOTS. IN ITEM NUMBER 4, WE NEED ANOTHER STAFF  
10 STATEMENT.

11

12 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 4, HEARING ON ANNEXATION OF  
13 TERRITORIES TO COUNTY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1687 AND  
14 COUNTY LIGHTING DISTRICT LLA-1 UNINCORPORATED ZONE LEVY AND  
15 COLLECT ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR STREET LIGHTING PURPOSES,  
16 FORMATION OF IMPROVEMENT ZONES 530 AND 533 FOR PETITION  
17 NUMBERS 136-1001 AND 33-203 RESPECTIVELY AND LEVY A SPECIAL  
18 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WITHIN IMPROVEMENT ZONES 530 AND 533. WE  
19 HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

20

21 **ANTHONY NYIVIH:** MY NAME IS ANTHONY NYIVIH AND I'M A SENIOR  
22 CIVIL ENGINEER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND I'M  
23 FAMILIAR WITH THESE PROCEEDINGS TO ANNEX TERRITORY INTO  
24 LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1687 AND COUNTY LIGHTING  
25 DISTRICT LLA-1, UNINCORPORATED ZONE FOR THE 14 PETITIONED



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1 AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE BOARD LETTER. IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT  
2 IMPROVEMENT ZONES 530 AND 533 CREATE ANY CONNECTION WITH THIS  
3 PETITION NUMBERS 136-1001 AND 33-203 TO HELP FINANCE THE  
4 INSTALLATION OF CONCRETE LIGHT STANDARDS IN THOSE PETITIONED  
5 AREAS. THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NEEDS TO IMPROVEMENT  
6 ZONES ARE \$48 AND \$53 PER YEAR FOR 10 YEARS RESPECTIVELY. IN  
7 MY OPINION, ALL OF THIS TERRITORY WITHIN THE PROPOSED PETITION  
8 AREAS COULD BE BENEFITED BY THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED AND  
9 THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN SPREAD IN PROPORTION TO THE  
10 BENEFITS TO BE RECEIVED. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT YOUR BOARD  
11 APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE WITH  
12 NONEXEMPT TAXING AGENCIES THAT WILL RESULT FROM THE PROPOSED  
13 ANNEXATION. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY PROTESTS TO THE PROPOSED  
14 ASSESSMENTS.

15  
16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THE ITEM IS BEFORE US. WE DO HAVE  
17 SOMEONE SIGNED UP FOR THE PUBLIC. INEZ CHESSUM.

18  
19 **INEZ CHESSUM:** MY NAME IS INEZ CHESSUM. I'M AN ARCHITECT AND I  
20 LIVE IN 5020 ROSEMONT AVENUE IN LA CRESCENTA. WE MOVED INTO  
21 THIS AREA FOUR YEARS AGO AND ONE OF THE QUALITIES THAT WE  
22 LIKED IN THE AREA WAS THE RURAL QUALITY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. A  
23 FEW MONTHS AGO, ONE OF OUR ELDERLY NEIGHBORS WAS ROBBED WHEN  
24 GETTING HOME LATE AT NIGHT. HE PASSED A PETITION REQUESTING  
25 SOME LIGHTING BEING ADDED TO THE STREETS, WHICH CURRENTLY HAVE



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1 NO LIGHTING WHATSOEVER. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, WE RECEIVED A  
2 PROPOSAL FOR THE INTENDED STREET LIGHTING WITH A LIGHTING  
3 SCHEME SHOWING THE NUMBER OF LIGHTS TO BE PUT IN OUR STREET.  
4 ROSEMONT AVENUE STARTS AT FOOTHILL AND GOES NORTH AND ENDS AT  
5 THE FOOTHILLS. THERE'S ABOUT 14 BLOCKS OF UNLIT STREET FOR THE  
6 LENGTH OF THE AVENUE. THERE'S ONLY ONE LIGHT AT THE BOTTOM OF  
7 THE FOOTHILL AND TWO AT THE VERY TOP. THE PROPOSED LIGHTING  
8 SCHEME FOR THIS BLOCK IS ACTUALLY PLACING 10 STREET LIGHTS  
9 WITHIN ONE CITY BLOCK, WITH THE REST OF THE AVENUE REMAINING  
10 DARK. OUR CONCERN IS THAT OUR BLOCK DOES NOT NEED TO BE  
11 GLOWING LIGHT ALL NIGHT WHILE THE REST OF THE AVENUE REMAINS  
12 PITCH BLACK. IT SEEMS TO MAKE MORE SENSE TO TAKE A  
13 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH IN DESIGN TO THE WHOLE STREET, PLACE  
14 LIGHTING AT INTERSECTIONS WHERE IT WOULD IDENTIFY THE CROSSING  
15 OF STREETS AND REALLY MAINTAIN THE RUSTIC AND SERVE THE  
16 COUNTRY-LIKE ALMOST ATMOSPHERE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU  
17 VERY MUCH.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. THIS IS...

20

21 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM 4. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS  
22 TIME TO CLOSE THE HEARING, DIRECT THE TABULATION OF BALLOTS  
23 AND CONTINUE THE ITEM...

24





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1   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** COULD WE-- I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO RESPOND  
2   TO HER ISSUE, THOUGH FROM STAFF, IF THEY COULD, PLEASE.

3

4   **ANTHONY NYIVIH:** YEAH, WE CAN WORK WITH THE CONSTITUENTS TO SEE  
5   WHERE SHE WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL LIGHT INSTALLED AND WE CAN  
6   INCORPORATE THAT INTO THE LIGHTING PLAN.

7

8   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE CAN INCORPORATE THAT?

9

10   **ANTHONY NYIVIH:** IF APPROPRIATE.

11

12   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF APPROPRIATE, WE CAN INCORPORATE THAT  
13   INTO-- WE DON'T REQUIRE-- DO WE REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL ACTION  
14   OR JUST DIRECTION?

15

16   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** MR. CHAIRMAN...

17

18   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I MEAN, I KNOW THIS IS COMING BACK IN A  
19   WEEK BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TABULATE THE BALLOTS.

20

21   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** RIGHT. ON THIS MATTER, ON THIS  
22   PARTICULAR PETITION, YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF CONTINUING  
23   THIS ONE PETITION AREA FOR A WEEK SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN  
24   CONSULT WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER AND REPORT BACK BEFORE YOU  
25   TABULATE THE BALLOTS, OR YOU CAN TABULATE THE BALLOTS AND THE



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1 DEPARTMENT HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE DESIGN AND LOCATION OF  
2 THE LIGHTS. I'M NOT SURE THE WITNESS WAS IN FAVOR MERELY OF  
3 JUST RELOCATING A LIGHT. IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE HAD A LARGER  
4 DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CONCEPT OF LIGHTING HER BLOCK AND NOT  
5 OTHER AREAS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. SO IT'S UP TO YOUR BOARD.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT  
8 LEAST TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES BECAUSE IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE AND  
9 SO WE CAN CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING OR DO WE KEEP IT OPEN?

10

11 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** ON THAT ONE-- THERE ARE 14 PETITION  
12 AREAS. SHE WAS ONLY SPEAKING WITH ONE. YOU COULD CLOSE THE  
13 PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER 13 AND LEAVE THE  
14 HEARING OPEN WITH RESPECT TO THAT ONE AND CONTINUE IT A WEEK  
15 FOR A REPORT BACK FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. I WOULD SO MOVE THAT WE CLOSE THE  
18 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 13 AND THE ONE THAT SHE WAS ADDRESSING,  
19 THAT WE LEAVE THAT OPEN AND THEY CAN MEET WITH THE HOMEOWNERS  
20 OUT THERE AND REPORT BACK IN A WEEK AND THEN WE'LL TABULATE  
21 THE VOTES IN A WEEK ANYWAY BECAUSE IT-- CORRECT, FOR ALL 14?

22

23 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** WELL, NO, WE CAN'T TABULATE THE  
24 BALLOTS ON THE ONE WITH THE HEARING REMAINING OPEN. STATE LAW  
25 DOESN'T...



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** BUT YOU CAN TABULATE THE 13.

3

4 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** CORRECT.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THAT'S MY MOTION AND DIRECT STAFF,  
7 THEN, TO MEET WITH THE HOMEOWNERS ON THE REMAINING, THE 14TH  
8 AREA, I'M NOT SURE WHAT ITS NUMBER IS, BUT THAT THE-- SHE  
9 ADDRESSED HERE, MISS CHESSUM. OKAY?

10

11 **ANTHONY NYVIH:** WE WILL.

12

13 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. I'LL MOVE THAT AND SUPERVISOR  
14 BURKE WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. OKAY. NEXT  
15 IS ITEM NUMBER 5.

16

17 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 5, HEARING TO VACATE WITH  
18 RESERVATIONS A PORTION OF HILLTOP CLIMB DRIVE UNINCORPORATED  
19 MONTE NIDO AREA. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

20

21 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN...

22

23 **SPEAKER:** MY NAME IS...

24

25 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES?



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I'D LIKE TO ASK THAT THIS ITEM BE REFERRED  
3 BACK TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. I SHOULD HAVE ASKED THAT  
4 EARLIER BUT...

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ITEM NUMBER 5 HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED--  
7 MOVED BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY TO BE REFERRED BACK TO PUBLIC  
8 WORKS. CHAIR WILL SECOND THAT. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.  
9 ITEM NUMBER 6.

10

11 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 6, HEARING TO VACATE WITH  
12 RESERVATIONS A PORTION OF FETTERLY AVENUE NORTH OF 3RD STREET  
13 UNINCORPORATED EAST LOS ANGELES AREA. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN  
14 PROTESTS.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ITEM NUMBER 6 IS BEFORE US. ANYONE  
17 SIGNED UP TO SPEAK ON THIS ITEM FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING? AS I  
18 UNDERSTAND IT, ITEM NUMBER 6, WE NEED A STAFF STATEMENT.

19

20 **RAFAEL MACHUCA:** YEAH. MY NAME IS RAFAEL MACHUCA, I AM A SENIOR  
21 SURVEY MAPPING TECHNICIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.  
22 I HAVE INVESTIGATED THE PROPOSED VACATION OF THE COUNTY'S  
23 EASEMENT INTEREST IN THE PORTION OF FETTERLY AVENUE NORTH OF  
24 THIRD STREET IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST LOS ANGELES CIVIC  
25 CENTER COMPLEX, IN THE SETTING ASIDE OF COUNTY OWNED CIVIC



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1 CENTER WAY AND PORTIONS OF THIRD STREET FOR ALTERNATE ACCESS  
2 PURPOSES AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH PROPERTY INTO THE COUNTY  
3 SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES. THIS VACATION WAS  
4 PROPOSED BY THE C.A.O. ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY AS THE  
5 UNDERLYING PROPERTY OWNER. THE PROPOSED VACATION AREA CONTAINS  
6 APPROXIMATELY 54,000 SQUARE FEET. IN MY OPINION, THE INVOLVED  
7 EASEMENT INTERESTS PROPOSED TO BE VACATED ARE NOT NECESSARY  
8 FOR PRESENT OR PROSPECTIVE PUBLIC USE. THE VACATION WOULD NOT  
9 CUT OFF ACCESS TO ANY PROPERTIES OR NEGATIVELY IMPACT OTHER  
10 PROPERTIES. EXIST EASEMENTS FOR UTILITY FACILITIES WILL BE  
11 RESERVED TO SBC, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, THE GAS COMPANY,  
12 CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY AND ADELPHIA. WE ARE AWARE OF  
13 NO WRITTEN PROTESTS TO THE PROPOSED VACATION.

14  
15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOVED BY  
16 SUPERVISOR MOLINA, THE CHAIR WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION,  
17 SO ORDERED. ITEM NUMBER 7.

18  
19 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** ITEM NUMBER 7, HEARING ON PROPOSED  
20 BILLING RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
21 TO COMPLY WITH VARIOUS PROGRAM BILLING REQUIREMENTS AND  
22 MAXIMIZE MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1,  
23 2004. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.



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1   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ANYONE SIGNED UP TO SPEAK ON THIS  
2   ITEM? OKAY. ALL RIGHT. THE ITEM IS THEN BEFORE US. MOVED BY  
3   SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT  
4   OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. ITEM NUMBER 8.

5

6   **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASE OF \$2 IN  
7   THE LAW LIBRARY COMPONENT OF THE CIVIL FILING FEE IN THE  
8   SUPERIOR COURT TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE LAW LIBRARY,  
9   EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

10

11   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WE DON'T REQUIRE A STAFF STATEMENT  
12   BUT WE DO HAVE SOMEONE HERE. WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE SIGNED UP FROM  
13   THE PUBLIC, YVONNE AUTRY AND PETER BAXTER. ALL RIGHT. GO  
14   AHEAD, YVONNE.

15

16   **YVONNE MICHELLE AUTRY:** OKAY. GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR THE  
17   OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL RELATIVE TO THIS ITEM. AS  
18   YOU KNOW, MERRITT HOLLOWAY, MY EX-SIGNIFICANT OTHER, USED TO  
19   ALWAYS ADDRESS THE COUNCIL RELATIVE TO FRIVOLOUS SPENDING AND  
20   PROPOSED INCREASES IN LIBRARY EXPENSES AND PARKING FEES AND SO  
21   I WOULD KIND OF LIKE TO CONTINUE IN THAT SPIRIT. IN THAT WE  
22   USE THE LIBRARY-- I USE THE L.A. LIBRARY MORE THAN THE LAW  
23   LIBRARY BUT, IN HAVING THE NECESSITY TO FILE SUITS AGAINST THE  
24   COUNTY BECAUSE, AGAIN, MY SON WAS ILLEGALLY DETAINED BY THE  
25   DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, IN SUPPORT OR TO





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1 SPEAK ON BEHALF OF OTHER CITIZENS WHO WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE  
2 TO USE THE LIBRARY AND HAVE FEES THAT ARE AFFORDABLE, WHETHER  
3 THEY'RE FEES FOR CHECKING OUT BOOKS, PARKING FEES. I WOULD  
4 HAVE TO SPEAK AGAINST THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF \$2 FOR ANY  
5 REASON. I THINK THAT THE FEES THAT ARE CHARGED RIGHT NOW ARE  
6 ADEQUATE AND I THINK THAT THEY'RE FAIR AND I THINK THAT AN  
7 INCREASE WOULD BE UNFAIR AND IT WOULD DISCOURAGE A LOT OF  
8 CITIZENS FROM USING THE LIBRARY, AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THAT  
9 INFORMATION SO THAT THEY CAN BE ABLE TO ARM THEMSELVES IF THEY  
10 HAVE TO GO PRO PER, LIKE I HAD TO, OR IF THEY HAVE TO JUST  
11 LEARN ABOUT THE LITIGATION PROCESS OR DEFENDING THEMSELVES OR  
12 JUST WHATEVER THE SITUATION MIGHT BE. SO FOR THAT REASON, I  
13 THINK THAT THE FEES ARE ADEQUATE AND I WOULD DISCOURAGE YOU  
14 FROM ANY PROPOSED FEE INCREASE BECAUSE I THINK IT WOULD BE  
15 UNFAIR, UNNECESSARY AND I THINK IT WOULD BE A CONTINUED  
16 ASSAULT ON THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY WITH THE PROPOSED TAX  
17 INCREASES WITH THE ELECTIONS THAT ARE COMING. SO I WOULD VOTE--  
18 - I MEAN, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU-- JUST, YOU KNOW, DON'T  
19 CHARGE US ANY MORE MONEY. COME ON. MOST OF US ARE NOT RICH.  
20 THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [ APPLAUSE ]

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. PETER?

23

24 **PETER BAXTER:** MR. CHAIR, MEMBERS OF YOUR HONORABLE BOARD, MR.  
25 JANSSEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY NAME IS PETER BAXTER AND I



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1 LIVE IN LOS ANGELES. IT IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THAT THIS  
2 AGENDA ITEM REFERS TO THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF A PORTION OF  
3 THE FILING FEES WHICH ARE CHARGED FOR FILING CIVIL LAWSUITS,  
4 WHICH FEES, IN PART, PAY THE EXPENSES OF THE LAW LIBRARY.  
5 WHILE I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSAL, IT IS MY RESPECTFUL  
6 POSITION THAT NO AUDITING IS CONDUCTED BY THE COUNTY AUDITOR  
7 OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE LAW LIBRARY. THIS APPEARS TO BE VERY  
8 STRANGE. THIS AGENCY IS KNOWN AS THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES LAW  
9 LIBRARY AND THIS LAW LIBRARY RELIES ON PUBLIC MONEY TO PAY THE  
10 EXPENSES OF THIS LIBRARY, AND YET THE COUNTY AUDITOR DOES NOT  
11 AUDIT THIS LAW LIBRARY TO FOLLOW THE PUBLIC FUNDS THAT ARE  
12 ALLOCATED BY YOUR HONORABLE BOARD TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF THIS  
13 LAW LIBRARY. THE LAW LIBRARY RETAINS THE SERVICES OF A PRIVATE  
14 LAW FIRM-- OF A PRIVATE FIRM TO AUDIT THE LIBRARY BUT SUCH A  
15 SERVICE IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE RIGOR OF THE AUDITING BY THE  
16 COUNTY AUDITOR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAW LIBRARY HAS AUTHORIZED  
17 ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION KNOWN AS THE FRIENDS OF THE LAW  
18 LIBRARY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. WHEN THE TRUSTEES ASK  
19 ABOUT THE FOUNDATION IN OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, THEY ARE TOLD  
20 THAT THE FOUNDATION IS SEPARATE FROM THE LIBRARY AND THAT THE  
21 RECORDS ARE PRIVATE, NOT PUBLIC. THERE ARE FIVE SITTING JUDGES  
22 OF THE SUPERIOR COURT WHO ARE LIBRARY TRUSTEES, THE FUNDS  
23 SOLICITED BY THE FOUNDATION ARE RAISED IN THE NAME OF THESE  
24 SITTING JUDGES. ONE JUDGE FLATLY AND ENERGETICALLY OPPOSED  
25 RAISING FUNDS IN THE NAME OF JUDGES. THAT JUDGE SUBSEQUENTLY



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1 RESIGNED FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE COUNTY  
2 AUDITOR WOULD BE ABLE TO REVIEW THIS QUESTION WHEREAS A  
3 PRIVATE AUDITOR WOULD PROBABLY REGARD THAT AS BEING OUTSIDE  
4 THE RANGE OF HIS OR HER AUDITING RESPONSIBILITIES, ALL OF  
5 WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED. I THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. THE ITEM... [ SCATTERED  
8 APPLAUSE ]

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THE ITEM IS BEFORE US.

11

12 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MOVE IT.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MOVED BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, SECONDED  
15 BY SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. NEXT IS  
16 ITEM NUMBER 9.

17

18 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** HEARING ON MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TICKET  
19 AND PARKING PRICES PROPOSED BY THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC  
20 ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2005 HOLLYWOOD BOWL SEASON. WE HAVE NO  
21 WRITTEN PROTESTS.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DO WE HAVE ANYONE SIGNED UP UNDER PUBLIC?  
24 OKAY.

25



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1    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MOVE FOR APPROVAL.

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WE'LL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE ITEM IS  
4    BEFORE US. MOVED BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, THE CHAIR WILL  
5    SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. NEXT IS ITEM NUMBER 10.

6

7    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES  
8    COUNTY NON-DISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT, INCORPORATING THE  
9    EXISTING ATHENS SERVICES MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY TRANSFER  
10    STATION. WE HAVE NO WRITTEN PROTESTS.

11

12    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WE'LL OPEN THE-- WE NEED A STAFF  
13    STATEMENT HERE. IS THAT CORRECT? WE DON'T? OKAY. WE DO HAVE  
14    ONE PERSON IN THE PUBLIC SIGNED UP, WELL, IT SAYS ONLY IF  
15    NECESSARY. WE'LL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOVE THE ITEM.  
16    MOVED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE, THE CHAIR WILL SECOND. WITHOUT  
17    OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. OKAY. MOVING ON HERE. I BELIEVE THE  
18    ONLY-- WE HAD JUST TWO SMALL ITEMS HELD FOR US AND ITEM NUMBER  
19    11 IS THE LAST ONE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEARING ITEM. THAT'S GOING  
20    TO BE RATHER LENGTHY, SO I NEED TO SEE WHO IS SIGNED UP HERE  
21    AND SORT OF ORGANIZE OURSELVES. IN THE MEANTIME...

22

23    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WE HAVE A STAFF REPORT?

24



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES, WE WILL HAVE A STAFF REPORT. 12 AND 13  
2    ARE DONE. OKAY? SUPERVISOR MOLINA, YOU HELD ITEM NUMBER 19?  
3    OKAY. EXCUSE ME. I'M SORRY. 23, EXCUSE ME, I'M SORRY, YOU HELD  
4    ITEM 23 AS WELL. OKAY. ALL RIGHT. WE CAN WAIT ON 18 AS WELL,  
5    TOO, THEN. OKAY. HERE WE GO. THIS IS ITEM NUMBER 11. THERE IS  
6    A WHOLE BUNCH OF YOU FOLKS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK. ALL RIGHT. AND  
7    HERE ARE THE GROUND RULES. I'M GOING TO CALL THREE IN FAVOR,  
8    THREE IN OPPOSITION, SORT OF ALTERNATE TO SORT OF GIVE YOU A  
9    BLENDING AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS. WE WILL ASK THAT, SINCE  
10    THERE WILL PROBABLY BE SOME REDUNDANCY IN SOME OF THE  
11    TESTIMONY EITHER FOR OR AGAINST IT, IF YOU COULD KEEP YOUR  
12    COMMENTS TO A MINUTE, OKAY, BECAUSE THERE'S SO MANY OF YOU.  
13    WE'LL GET AS MANY TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK AS POSSIBLE. NOW, AS IT  
14    RELATES TO THE HEARING ROOM ITSELF, IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS  
15    BOARD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE ISSUE IS, NOT TO ALLOW ANY  
16    PUBLIC OUTBURSTS. WE ASK YOU NOT TO APPLAUD, BOO, HISS. JUST  
17    BE RESPECTFUL OF EACH OTHER SO THAT WE GIVE EACH SIDE THEIR  
18    PROPER DUE AND THEN WE'LL BRING THE ITEM BEFORE US. SO TO  
19    BEGIN ITEM NUMBER 11, WE'RE GOING TO ASK FOR A STAFF REPORT.

20

21    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** CAN I PLEASE READ IT INTO THE RECORD?  
22    HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 22, PLANNING AND  
23    ZONING TO AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA  
24    COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH NEW DEVELOPMENT  
25    STANDARDS FOR REVIEW OF GRADING PROJECTS AND RIDGELINE



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1 DEVELOPMENT IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA. WE HAVE  
2 CORRESPONDENCE BOTH IN FAVOR AND IN OPPOSITION TO THIS  
3 PROJECT.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WE'LL ASK FOR A STAFF REPORT, PLEASE.

6

7 **DAVE COWARDIN:** GOOD MORNING, MR. CHAIRMAN, CHARITABLE, MEMBERS  
8 OF THE BOARD. MY NAME IS DAVE COWARDIN. I'M HERE TO REPRESENT  
9 THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN THE MATTER BEFORE YOU,  
10 WHICH IS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY ZONING  
11 ORDINANCE TO MINIMIZE GRADING AND TO PRESERVE RIDGELINES IN  
12 THE UNINCORPORATED NORTH AREA OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.  
13 I'D JUST LIKE TO MENTION THAT THERE WERE SOME HANDOUTS WHICH  
14 CONSISTED OF GENERAL SLIDES DESCRIBING THE ORDINANCE. I'M NOT  
15 SURE IF THERE ARE ANY LEFT BUT PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO THEM. IN  
16 ADDITION, I'D LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE PROPOSED  
17 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE MAPS POSTED BEHIND YOU ON THE DISPLAY  
18 BOARD ON THE LOWER LEFT. IT DEPICTS THE NORTH AREA BOUNDARIES  
19 AS WELL AS THE RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES. ALSO, BASED  
20 ON AN ANALYSIS OF OVER 30 REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC, STAFF IS  
21 RECOMMENDING THREE SMALL DELETIONS OF SEGMENTS AS SHOWN  
22 HIGHLIGHTED ON THE MAP. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A SMALLER  
23 VERSION OF THE MAP ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE DOCUMENT IN YOUR  
24 BOARD LETTER PACKAGE. OVERALL, THE MAP TO BE ADOPTED BY YOUR  
25 BOARD AS PART OF THE ORDINANCE DEPICTS SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES





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1 THAT ARE DESIGNATED BASED ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING  
2 CRITERIA OR CHARACTERISTICS: FIRST OFF, TOPOGRAPHIC  
3 COMPLEXITY. THIS IS DESCRIBED BY RIDGES THAT HAVE A  
4 SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN ELEVATION FROM A VALLEY OR CANYON  
5 FLOOR. ALSO AS A CHARACTERISTIC, THERE'S NEAR/FAR CONTRAST,  
6 RIDGES THAT ARE PART OF A SCENE THAT INCLUDES A PROMINENT  
7 RIDGELINE IN THE FOREGROUND AND A MAJOR BACKDROP RIDGE WITH AN  
8 UNBROKEN SKYLINE. THIRD, THERE ARE CULTURAL LANDMARKS, RIDGES  
9 THAT FRAME VIEWS OF WELL-KNOWN LOCATIONS, STRUCTURES, OR OTHER  
10 PLACES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SANTA  
11 MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA. FOURTH, UNIQUENESS AND CHARACTER  
12 OF A SPECIAL LOCATION. THIS WOULD BE DESCRIBED AS PEAKS AND  
13 THEIR BUTTRESSING RIDGES AND RIDGES THAT FRAME ROCKY  
14 OUTCROPPINGS, OTHER UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND AREAS OF  
15 EXTRAORDINARY OF NATURAL BEAUTY. AND FIFTH BUT NOT LAST,  
16 EXISTING COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES AND GATEWAYS: RIDGES THAT FRAME  
17 COMMUNITIES OR PROVIDE THE FIRST VIEW OF PREDOMINANTLY NATURAL  
18 UNDEVELOPED LAND AS IT TRAVELS OR EMERGES FROM THE URBAN  
19 LANDSCAPE. FOR BACKGROUND ON THIS ORDINANCE. ON OCTOBER 24TH,  
20 2000, YOUR BOARD APPROVED THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH  
21 AREA PLAN TO GUIDE ALL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS IN  
22 THE UNINCORPORATED NORTH AREA. THIS PLAN INCLUDES NUMEROUS  
23 POLICIES CALLING FOR MINIMIZATION OF GRADING AND PROTECTION OF  
24 RIDGELINE AND IT IS BASED ON YOUR AFFIRMATION THAT THE NORTH  
25 AREA IS A SPECIAL PLACE WITH ITS DRAMATIC MOUNTAIN RELIEF,



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1 NATURAL HILLSIDES AND UNSPOILED RIDGELINES. THE NORTH AREA  
2 PLAN'S IMPLEMENTATION CHAPTER AND ITS FINAL PROGRAM  
3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT MITIGATION MEASURES SPECIFICALLY  
4 CALL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS THAT REFLECT PLANNED  
5 POLICIES RELATED TO GRADING AND RIDGELINE PROTECTION. YOUR  
6 BOARD FOLLOWED UP IN THE YEAR 2002 WITH ADOPTION OF THE SANTA  
7 MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT TO  
8 LAY THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE REGULATION TO IMPLEMENT PLANNED  
9 POLICIES. LATER, YOU DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL  
10 PLANNING, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,  
11 TO DEVELOP AN ORDINANCE WITH DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE  
12 SIGHTING AND DESIGN OF STRUCTURES CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES  
13 IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN THAT CALLED AGAIN FOR MINIMIZING  
14 GRADING AND PROTECTION OF RIDGELINES. TO COMPLY WITH YOUR  
15 DIRECTION AND AFTER A WORKSHOP AND A LENGTHY PUBLIC HEARING  
16 EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONSIDERED  
17 ALL POINTS OF VIEW AND, ON JUNE 16TH, 2004, RECOMMENDED THE  
18 PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TODAY. WHAT DOES THE  
19 ORDINANCE DO? WITH RESPECT TO GRADING, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE  
20 WOULD LOWER THE THRESHOLD FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A  
21 NEW GRADING PROJECT FROM 100,000 CUBIC YARDS OF MATERIAL TO  
22 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF COMBINED CUT AND FILL MATERIAL AND FOR A  
23 GRADED AREA OVER 15,000 SQUARE FEET. IT WOULD ALSO LOWER THE  
24 CURRENT THRESHOLD FOR APPROVAL OF A HALL ROUTE FROM 10,000  
25 CUBIC YARDS TO 1,000 CUBIC YARDS OF ANY MATERIAL MOVED TO OR



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1 FROM A PROJECT OR SITE. WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT  
2 RIDGELINES, AS DEPICTED ON OUR MAP, THAT IS THE SIGNIFICANT  
3 RIDGELINES MAP, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE WOULD PROHIBIT NEW  
4 DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE PROTECTED ZONE OF THESE RIDGELINES BUT  
5 MAKE A VARIANCE PROCESS AVAILABLE FOR A PROPERTY WHERE THE  
6 SAFEST AND LEAST ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE LOCATION FOR  
7 CONSTRUCTION IS ON THAT SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE. THE PROPOSED  
8 ORDINANCE PERMITS DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN THE PIPELINE TO  
9 CONTINUE APPLICATION PROCESSING BASED ON THE PLANNING AND  
10 ZONING RULES THAT EXIST PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE  
11 PROPOSED ORDINANCE. ALSO, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE PERMITS  
12 REBUILDING OF RESIDENCES AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES LOCATED ON  
13 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES WHICH ARE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. IT  
14 PERMITS SOME EXPANSION, UP TO 25% OR 1,200 SQUARE FEET OF  
15 FLOOR AREA AND SOME MINOR RELOCATION OF THESE DAMAGED OR  
16 DESTROYED STRUCTURES. REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
17 DOCUMENTATION, AS YOU RECALL, THE VENTURA FREEWAY CORRIDOR  
18 AREA WIDE PLAN, WHICH SERVED AS A STATEMENT OF REGIONAL  
19 POLICY, WAS COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 2000 AND ADAPTED FOR  
20 ADOPTION BY THE COUNTY TO BECOME THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
21 NORTH AREA PLAN. A FINAL PROGRAM E.I.R. WAS CERTIFIED BY YOUR  
22 BOARD FOR THAT PLAN AND A STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING  
23 CONSIDERATIONS WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OCTOBER 24TH, ALONG  
24 WITH THE NORTH AREA PLAN. THAT'S OCTOBER 24TH, 2000. A  
25 COMPLETE SET OF THESE DOCUMENTS IS INCLUDED WITH YOUR BOARD



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1 LETTER PACKAGE FOR CONSIDERATION TODAY. AT THE BOARD MEETING  
2 HELD ON AUGUST 10TH, 2004, YOU APPROVED A MOTION INSTRUCTING  
3 THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNTY COUNSEL,  
4 TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION FOR  
5 THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. AN INITIAL STUDY WAS PREPARED FOR THE  
6 PROJECT TO DETERMINE IF THE PROPOSED GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT  
7 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT NEW OR  
8 SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THAN WERE  
9 ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL PROGRAM E.I.R., THUS TRIGGERING THE  
10 NEED FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL OR SUBSEQUENT E.I.R. OR NEGATIVE  
11 DECLARATION AS PROVIDED IN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL  
12 QUALITY ACT, GUIDELINES, SECTIONS 15162 AND 15163. BASED UPON  
13 THE INITIAL STUDY, STAFF DETERMINED THAT NONE OF THE  
14 CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN C.E.Q.A. GUIDELINES, SECTION 15162,  
15 HAVE OCCURRED AND ONLY MINOR TECHNICAL CHANGES AND ADDITIONS  
16 TO THE FINAL PROGRAM E.I.R. ARE NECESSARY. IN THIS INSTANCE,  
17 C.E.Q.A. GUIDELINES, SECTION 15164, MANDATES THAT AN ADDENDUM  
18 BE PREPARED. BOTH THE INITIAL STUDY AND THE ADDENDUM ARE SET  
19 FORTH IN ATTACHMENT 5 OF THE BOARD LETTER PACKAGE FOR YOUR  
20 CONSIDERATION. ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INTO THE RECORD A  
21 SIX-PAGE DOCUMENT, WHICH MR. HOFMANN WILL BRING TO THE CLERK,  
22 ENTITLED "RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS, GRADING AND  
23 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ORDINANCE FOR THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
24 NORTH AREA COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT." THIS DOCUMENT  
25 SUMMARIZES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE



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1 PUBLIC IN WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE AND PROVIDES WRITTEN  
2 RESPONSES THERETO. THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY L.S.A. AND  
3 ASSOCIATES ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING  
4 AND MR. LLOYD ZOLA IS HERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT. I'M  
5 SURE THESE ITEMS WILL COME UP DURING THE HEARING. IN  
6 CONCLUSION, THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVED THE  
7 RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT YOUR BOARD ADOPT THE PROPOSED  
8 GRADING AND RIDGELINE PROTECTION ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO  
9 IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH  
10 AREA PLAN THAT CALLED FOR MINIMIZED GRADING AND RESTRICTED  
11 RIDGELINE DEVELOPMENT. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE, THE  
12 PROPOSED ORDINANCE WOULD, IN SUMMARY, LOWER THE THRESHOLD FOR  
13 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW OF GRADING PROJECTS FROM A HUNDRED  
14 THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS OF MATERIAL MOVED TO 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OR  
15 15,000 SQUARE FEET OF GRADED AREA. IT WOULD LOWER THE  
16 REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF A HAUL ROUTE FOR OFFSITE TRANSPORT  
17 MATERIAL FROM 10,000 CUBIC YARDS TO 1,000 CUBIC YARDS. IT  
18 WOULD PROHIBIT DEVELOPMENT ON DESIGNATED SIGNIFICANT  
19 RIDGELINES BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE A VARIANCE PROCEDURE FOR  
20 RELIEF. AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOUR BOARD  
21 CONSIDER THE CERTIFIED FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR  
22 THE VENTURA FREEWAY CORRIDOR AREA WIDE PLAN AND THE ADDENDUM  
23 THERETO. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD FIND THAT THE  
24 ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL E.I.R. WAS PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
25 THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, SECTION 18164 AND



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1 THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT REPORTING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES  
2 OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU  
3 ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION SET FORTH AS  
4 ATTACHMENT SIX IN THE BOARD LETTER PACKAGE AND DETERMINE THAT  
5 THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY CODE TITLE 22 IS  
6 COMPATIBLE AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOALS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
7 GENERAL PLAN. WE RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL-- APPROVING THE  
8 RECOMMENDATION OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADOPT  
9 THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND PROPOSED SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE MAP  
10 AND WE RECOMMEND YOU INSTRUCT THE COUNTY COUNSEL TO PREPARE AN  
11 ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 22 OF THE LOS ANGELES CODE AS  
12 RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION. THAT  
13 CONCLUDES MY REMARKS BUT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, COUNTY STAFF  
14 AND MR. LLOYD ZOLA, OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT, ARE PREPARED  
15 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.

16  
17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DON?

18  
19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES?

20  
21 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BACK IN OCTOBER 2000, WHEN THE NORTH AREA  
22 PLAN WAS ADOPTED, I'D LIKE TO READ A PART OF THE TRANSCRIPT. I  
23 ASKED AT THAT TIME, "OKAY, SO IN NO WAY IS THIS GOING TO PUT  
24 ADDITIONAL DELAYS ON C.U.P.S IS THIS WHAT WE ARE SAYING?" MR.  
25 STARK REPLIED, "I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE NOT, NO." MR. KNABE,





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1 "WELL, WHAT DOES-- I CERTAINLY HOPE NOT MEAN?" MR. STARK,  
2 "WELL, WELL, I-- I-- THIS IS NOT A ZONING DOCUMENT AND IT  
3 DOESN'T REGULATE HOW DISCRETIONARY APPLICATIONS ARE  
4 PROCESSED." I REPLIED, "DO WE HAVE A GUARANTEE THAT THERE IS  
5 NO ADDITIONAL REGULATORY IMPEDIMENTS BEING IMPOSED?" MR.  
6 STARK, "THERE ARE POLICIES THAT ARE CHANGING BUT THERE ARE NO  
7 REGULATORY..." MR. YAROSLAVSKY, "LEE, I THINK THE QUESTION  
8 HE'S ASKING, IS THERE ANYTHING IN THIS PLAN WHICH WOULD  
9 REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT OR OTHER KIND OF  
10 DISCRETIONARY PROCESS THAT ARE NOT NOW CURRENTLY REQUIRED?"  
11 MR. STARK, "UH..." MR. YAROSLAVSKY, "I THINK THE ANSWER IS  
12 NO." MR. STARK, "NOT NO. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO." MR.  
13 YAROSLAVSKY, "NO, IT'S NOT?" MR. ANTONOVICH, "NO, OKAY, THE  
14 ANSWER IS NO." MR. STARK, "THE ANSWER IS NO." THE QUESTION IS  
15 WHY IS... [ APPLAUSE ]  
16  
17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE. [ GAVEL ]  
18  
19 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WHY IN FOUR-- WHY, IN FOUR YEARS, HAVE A-- WE  
20 NOW HAVE A PROPOSAL BEFORE US THAT DICTATES THAT A C.U.P. MUST  
21 NOW BE OBTAINED IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUILD A HOUSE, ONE HOUSE,  
22 OR A BARN?  
23  
24 **RON HOFFMAN:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, I'M RON  
25 HOFMANN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING. GOING BACK



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1 THOSE FOUR YEARS TO THE ADOPTION OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN, I  
2 THINK THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS WERE CORRECT IN THAT THE  
3 PLAN DID NOT REQUIRE, AS A MATTER OF PLANNED POLICY, THE  
4 ENACTMENT OF ANY REGULATIONS CONTAINING CONDITIONAL USE  
5 PERMITS. HOWEVER, CERTAINLY, WITH THE EXTENSIVE POLICIES THAT  
6 ARE CONTAINED IN THAT PLAN AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE  
7 IMPLEMENTATION CHAPTER, THE THINGS THAT THE PLAN CALLS FOR  
8 THAT THE COUNTY IMPLEMENT, WHICH AS YOU ALL I'M CERTAINLY  
9 KNOW, IS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW THAT WE MAKE OUR ZONING  
10 CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN. IT-- AT THAT TIME, CERTAINLY THE  
11 METHOD OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS AND HOW THOSE DEVELOPMENT  
12 STANDARDS WOULD BE REVIEWED OR IMPOSED WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED  
13 BECAUSE, AS IT WAS STATED, THE PLAN WAS NOT A ZONING DOCUMENT.  
14 WHAT IS BEFORE YOU NOW IS A ZONING DOCUMENT THAT DOES ALLOW  
15 FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, NOT FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTS,  
16 NOT FOR BARNS, BUT FOR GRADING. THE C.U.P. FOR GRADING WAS  
17 REQUIRED AT THE TIME THAT THE BOARD ADOPTED THE PLAN BACK IN  
18 THE YEAR 2000. WHAT THIS ORDINANCE DOES IS IT CHANGES THE  
19 THRESHOLD FOR THAT GRADING FROM A HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS  
20 TO 5,000 CUBIC YARDS.

21

22 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IS THERE ANY OTHER LOCATION IN THE COUNTY  
23 WHERE A PROPERTY OWNER NEEDS A C.U.P. TO DEVELOP ONE HOME ON A  
24 LEGAL LOT?

25



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1   **RON HOFFMAN:** THERE ARE CERTAIN ZONES THAT REQUIRE A  
2   CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO DEVELOP A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME, THE  
3   R.R. ZONE, RESORT RECREATION, REQUIRES THAT, COMMERCIAL ZONES  
4   REQUIRE CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES. IF A  
5   SINGLE-FAMILY HOME WAS GRADING A HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS,  
6   IT WOULD REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT.

7

8   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WHAT SECTION OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN REQUIRES  
9   THE COUNTY TO ADOPT A GRADING AND RIDGELINE PROTECTION  
10   ORDINANCE?

11

12   **RON HOFFMAN:** THERE ARE NUMEROUS POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE  
13   DOCUMENT, THE NORTH AREA PLAN, THAT CONTAIN LANGUAGE THAT  
14   REQUIRE THE PROTECTION OF RIDGELINES AND REQUIRE THE  
15   MINIMIZATION OF GRADING AND DISTURBANCE OF THE NATURAL  
16   HABITAT.

17

18   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DID THE NORTH AREA PLAN REQUIRE THAT  
19   RIDGELINE VIEWS BE PROTECTED OR WAS IT SKYLINE VIEWS ARE TO BE  
20   PROTECTED AND WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

21

22   **RON HOFFMAN:** THE PLAN MENTIONS BOTH. THE POLICIES OF THE PLAN  
23   RELATING TO RIDGELINES MENTIONS BOTH. THE PROTECTION OF  
24   RIDGELINES IS ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE WITH  
25   THE REQUIREMENT THAT THERE BE A 50-FOOT SETBACK FROM--



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1 HORIZONTALLY FROM THE RIDGELINE AND VERTICALLY FROM THE  
2 RIDGELINE. SKYLINE VIEWS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS ANY SORT OF  
3 STRUCTURE, WHEN VIEWED FROM A PARTICULAR LOCATION, THAT WOULD  
4 IMPAIR THE-- THAT WOULD BASICALLY BE VISIBLE OVER THE  
5 BACKGROUND RIDGELINE.

6

7 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DOES THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE A DEFINITION OF A  
8 RIDGELINE?

9

10 **RON HOFFMAN:** IT INCLUDES A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT A SIGNIFICANT  
11 RIDGELINE IS AND THE ORDINANCE INCLUDES VERY DETAILED MAPS  
12 SHOWING PRECISE LOCATIONS OF THE RIDGELINES.

13

14 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AND WHAT IS OR IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT  
15 RIDGELINE?

16

17 **RON HOFFMAN:** AS DESCRIBED IN THE STAFF PRESENTATION, A  
18 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE IS A TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE THAT MEETS THE  
19 CRITERIA THAT THE STAFF ESTABLISHED. AND, WHEN WE TOOK THAT  
20 CRITERIA, WENT OUT INTO THE FIELD, LOOKED AT OUR TOPOGRAPHIC  
21 MAPS WITH THE COMPUTER-GENERATED CONTOUR LINES, WE WERE ABLE  
22 TO PRECISELY IDENTIFY THOSE RIDGELINES THAT WERE SIGNIFICANT  
23 FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BEING MAJOR VISUAL RESOURCE FEATURES IN  
24 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.

25



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1   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DOES THE NORTH AREA PLAN MANDATE THAT A  
2   C.U.P. BE MANDATED OR REQUIRED IN ALL INSTANCES?

3

4   **RON HOFFMAN:** THE NORTH AREA PLAN DOES NOT MENTION THE METHOD  
5   TO PROTECT RIDGELINES, NO.

6

7   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** ARE THERE OTHER MEASURES THAT THE COUNTY  
8   COULD IMPLEMENT TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WITHOUT  
9   SUBJECTING INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS FROM THE FEES, NOTICE  
10   AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE C.U.P., SUCH AS A  
11   DIRECTOR'S REVIEW OR PLOT PLAN APPROVAL?

12

13   **RON HOFFMAN:** THOSE ARE OTHER OPTIONS, OTHER PROCEDURES THAT  
14   CERTAINLY ARE AVAILABLE.

15

16   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THEY COULD BE IMPLEMENTED OR ADDED TO THE  
17   PROPOSAL?

18

19   **RON HOFFMAN:** THEY COULD.

20

21   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DUE TO THE CONFIGURATION OF SLOPE OF  
22   REMAINING LOTS AND GIVEN THE AREA NECESSARY FOR A TYPICAL  
23   BUILDING PAD, DRIVEWAY AND FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNAROUND, DOESN'T  
24   THE ORDINANCE EFFECTIVELY REQUIRE A C.U.P. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
25   OF A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING?



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1

**RON HOFFMAN:** NOT NECESSARILY. AS YOU KNOW, THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS ARE VERY DIVERSE IN THEIR TOPOGRAPHY. THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THE DEVELOPMENT, BECAUSE OF THE STEEPNESS OF THE SLOPE, PERHAPS THE LOCATION OF THE HOUSE ON THE PARCEL ITSELF WOULD RESULT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PAD, THE DRIVEWAY EXCEEDING THE THRESHOLDS. A REVIEW OF THE PERMITS THAT WE GOT FROM PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING GRADING PERMITS INDICATED THAT, WITH THE THRESHOLDS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT, IT'S ABOUT A 50%-- ABOUT 50% OF THE PERMITS WOULD REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT.

12

**SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DOESN'T THE ORDINANCE EFFECTIVELY REQUIRE A C.U.P. FOR EVEN A MODEST EXPANSION AN EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING?

16

**RON HOFFMAN:** NO, NOT AT ALL.

18

**SUP. ANTONOVICH:** NO? ISN'T THE C.U.P. REQUIREMENT FOR 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING EFFECTIVELY REQUIRING A C.U.P. FOR EVERY HOME?

22

**RON HOFFMAN:** NO, NOT AT ALL.

24

**SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY DO YOU THINK WOULD BE EXEMPTED?

25





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1

2 **RON HOFFMAN:** ABOUT 50%.

3

4 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO ABOUT-- FOR 50% OF THE HOMES, IT WOULD  
5 REQUIRE?

6

7 **RON HOFFMAN:** YES.

8

9 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AND IF YOU FOUND THAT THE POLICY WAS  
10 INCLUDING MORE THAN 50%, WHAT WOULD YOUR RECOMMENDATION BE?

11

12 **RON HOFFMAN:** WELL, THE 50% IS BASED ON WHAT PEOPLE ARE  
13 PROPOSING NOW. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE WOULD HOPE WITH THE  
14 ORDINANCE AND THE WAY IT'S DRAFTED IS THAT WE WOULD ENCOURAGE  
15 PEOPLE TO SEEK OUT THE MORE-- THE FLATTER PORTIONS OF THEIR  
16 PROPERTY TO BUILD ON AND THAT THEY WOULD BUILD ON-- BUILD  
17 CLOSER TO THE PUBLIC ROADS SO THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE AS MUCH  
18 GRADING REQUIRED.

19

20 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THE ADOPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE, ARE WE, IN  
21 ESSENCE, ENSURING THAT PROPERTY OWNERS ARE GOING TO BE  
22 PREVENTED FROM DEVELOPING A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING WHERE IT IS  
23 OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY THE CURRENT GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING?

24

25 **RON HOFFMAN:** NOT AT ALL.



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1

2 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** NOT AT ALL. WE WOULD GUARANTEE THAT?

3

4 **RON HOFFMAN:** THE WAY YOUR QUESTION IS PHRASED, THE ANSWER TO  
5 THAT WOULD BE "NO".

6

7 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BY ADOPTING THE ORDINANCE, IS THE COUNTY  
8 FORCING DEVELOPMENT TO OCCUR MORE ON SLOPED AREAS, WHICH WOULD  
9 CREATE MORE RATHER THAN LESS GRADING?

10

11 **RON HOFFMAN:** NOT NECESSARILY.

12

13 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** FOR MANY YEARS, THE COUNTY HAS PREVENTED  
14 SINGLE-FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS WHERE THERE IS GEOLOGIC INSTABILITY  
15 OR THE SOIL WILL NOT ALLOW THE PROPER OPERATION OF SEPTIC  
16 SYSTEMS. IS THIS PROPOSED ORDINANCE SIMILARLY PROTECTING A  
17 LEGITIMATE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE OR IS THERE A DIFFERENT  
18 OBJECTIVE OR GOAL?

19

20 **RON HOFFMAN:** I THINK THE ORDINANCE, AS DRAFTED, ACHIEVES  
21 MULTIPLE SETS OF GOALS. IT SEEKS TO PROTECT BIOLOGICAL  
22 RESOURCES, VISUAL RESOURCES, AND FOR HEALTH, FIRE SAFETY  
23 REASONS. ONE OF THE POLICIES OF THE PLAN IS TO MOVE  
24 STRUCTURES-- NOT BUILD STRUCTURES ON THE EDGE OF THE-- ON THE  
25 EDGE OF THE HILLSIDES BECAUSE THOSE ARE ESPECIALLY FIRE PRONE.



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1

2 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WHAT HARM WOULD OCCUR IF THE BOARD CHOSE TO  
3 EXEMPT EQUESTRIAN-RELATED PROJECTS FROM THE C.U.P.  
4 REQUIREMENT?

5

6 **RON HOFFMAN:** IF YOU DID NOT REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT?

7

8 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IF YOU EXEMPTED EQUESTRIAN-RELATED PROJECTS.

9

10 **RON HOFFMAN:** OH, EQUESTRIAN.

11

12 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** RIGHT.

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** THE EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES, I BELIEVE, COME IN ALL  
15 SIZES AND SHAPES. THE-- I THINK THE AVERAGE HORSE OWNER WOULD  
16 NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS ORDINANCE. HOWEVER, SOMEONE  
17 SEEKING TO BUILD A LARGE, FLAT RIDING RING OR EXTENSIVE STABLE  
18 AREAS, THOSE FOLKS, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE WERE PROPOSED IN VERY  
19 STEEP SLOPES, THOSE, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, WOULD TRIGGER THE  
20 REQUIREMENT FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. ONCE AGAIN, IT'S NOT  
21 A PROHIBITION, IT JUST WOULD REQUIRE THE CONDITIONAL USE  
22 PERMIT.

23

24 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** COULD AN APPLICATION BE APPROPRIATELY  
25 CONDITIONED SO THAT AN APPLICANT COULD ONLY BUILD AN



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1 EQUESTRIAN FACILITY AND NOT COME IN LATER WITH A DIFFERENT  
2 PROPOSAL?

3

4 **RON HOFFMAN:** WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT?

5

6 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WITHOUT A C.U.P.

7

8 **RON HOFFMAN:** WITHOUT A C.U.P.? DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF  
9 PROCEDURE THAT-- IF THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE TO THAT,  
10 IT PROBABLY COULD BE DONE.

11

12 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW LONG DOES IT USUALLY TAKE FOR A TYPICAL  
13 C.U.P. TO GET A HEARING?

14

15 **RON HOFFMAN:** A TYPICAL C.U.P., OF WHICH THERE PROBABLY ARE  
16 NONE BECAUSE THEY VARY SO MUCH IN THEIR SCOPE, IS ANYWHERE  
17 FROM SIX MONTHS TO 18 MONTHS WITH AN AVERAGE OF MAYBE 11  
18 MONTHS.

19

20 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO 11 MONTH AVERAGE. HOW WOULD THE ADOPTION  
21 OF THIS ORDINANCE OVERBURDEN THE DEPARTMENT?

22

23 **RON HOFFMAN:** I DON'T THINK IT WOULD OVERBURDEN THE DEPARTMENT  
24 AT ALL. THERE CERTAINLY WOULD BE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL  
25 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FILED AS A RESULT OF THIS ORDINANCE



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1 BUT NOT OF THE MAGNITUDE THAT IT WOULD CREATE ANY  
2 EXTRAORDINARY BURDEN ON THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO PROCESS  
3 PERMITS IN A TIMELY FASHION.

4

5 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BUT IF THE AVERAGE NOW IS 11 MONTHS, ADDING  
6 ADDITIONAL C.U.P.S TO THE PROCESS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT OF  
7 DELAYING THE OTHER C.U.P'S.

8

9 **RON HOFFMAN:** NOT NECESSARILY. [ LAUGHTER ]

10

11 **RON HOFFMAN:** I WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE TYPES OF CONDITIONAL USE  
12 PERMITS THAT WOULD BE FILED UNDER THIS AS SOMETHING THAT WE  
13 WOULD PERHAPS ASSIGN TO OUR HEARING OFFICER AND THE HEARING  
14 OFFICERS ARE ABLE TO TAKE ON QUITE A-- A MUCH LARGER CASELOADS  
15 THAN CASES GOING TO THE RESIDENTIAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

16

17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THANK YOU.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. YES?

20

21 **SUP. BURKE:** HOW LARGE-- HOW MANY SQUARE FEET WOULD BE THE  
22 ORDINARY RIDING RING?

23



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1   **RON HOFFMAN:** I BELIEVE THE SIZE THAT WAS GIVEN IN OUR  
2   TESTIMONY AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION WAS SOMETHING OVER 20,000  
3   SQUARE FEET. THAT WOULD BE, LIKE, A RIDING ARENA.

4

5   **SUP. BURKE:** WHAT KIND OF RIDING RING WOULD THAT BE? A JUMPING  
6   RING? DRESSAGE RING? WHAT KIND OF A RING?

7

8   **RON HOFFMAN:** I BELIEVE SO. PERHAPS ONE OF THE EQUESTRIAN  
9   FOLKS, WHEN THEY TESTIFY LATER, CAN ANSWER THAT.

10

11   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I JUST HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION, TOO. AS IT  
12   RELATES TO THE DRIVEWAYS, BY INCLUDING THE DRIVEWAYS IN THE  
13   GRADING, YOU'RE SORT OF-- THAT WOULD BE DICTATING EXACTLY  
14   WHERE THE HOME HAS TO GO, IN OTHER WORDS, TO MOVE IT TOWARD  
15   THE FRONT OR-- TO INCLUDE THE DRIVEWAY IN THE GRADING  
16   ORDINANCE.

17

18   **RON HOFFMAN:** RIGHT. IN A PROJECT, THE DRIVEWAY CERTAINLY IS A  
19   MAJOR FACTOR. THERE ARE SEVERAL POLICIES IN THE PLAN TO LIMIT  
20   THE LENGTH OF NEW DRIVEWAYS. THAT IS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE  
21   SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. THE EXCESSIVELY LONG DRIVEWAYS CAUSE  
22   AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF GRADING, EXCESSIVE RUN-OFF AND, AT  
23   TIMES, I THINK POSE A SAFETY HAZARD TO FIREFIGHTERS. THE  
24   INTENT OF THE PLAN AND THIS ORDINANCE, HOPEFULLY, WOULD BE TO





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1 MOVE PROPOSED STRUCTURES CLOSER TO THE PUBLIC ROADS SO THAT  
2 THE DISRUPTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE LESSENERED.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ZEV?

5

6 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS OF PLANNING STAFF,  
7 THEN I'D LIKE TO ASK THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC WORKS  
8 STAFF TO JOIN THEM UP HERE. FIRST OF ALL, ON THE DRIVEWAY  
9 ISSUE, LET'S GET THAT OUT IN THE OPEN, THE GRADING-- THE  
10 GRADING IN EXCESS OF 5,000 CUBIC YARDS FOR A DRIVEWAY OR  
11 PROJECTS WHICH HAVE THAT KIND OF GRADING FOR A DRIVEWAY TEND  
12 TO BE, WHAT, LONG DRIVEWAYS?

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** YES, SIR.

15

16 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND IN THE TOTAL SCOPE OF THE PROJECT, IS IT  
17 POSSIBLE FOR THE-- FOR THE GRADING-- FOR A DRIVEWAY TO BE THE  
18 LARGE PORTION OF THE GRADING FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT?

19

20 **RON HOFFMAN:** IT VERY WELL COULD BE, DUE TO THE LARGE SIZE OF  
21 SOME OF THE PROPERTIES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.

22

23 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** HAVE WE HAD THAT EXPERIENCE IN THE SANTA  
24 MONICA MOUNTAINS?

25



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1    **RON HOFFMAN:** MOST DEFINITELY.

2

3    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WE CONTINUE TO HAVE THOSE EXPERIENCES IN THE  
4    SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS WHERE THERE MAY BE A FLAT PIECE OF  
5    PROPERTY A HALF A MILE, OR A MILE IN BUT, IN ORDER TO GET IT,  
6    YOU HAVE TO GRADE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CUBIC YARDS? THERE'S AN  
7    APPLICATION RIGHT NOW INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, I  
8    UNDERSTAND, FOR SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CUBIC YARDS OF  
9    GRADING JUST TO CREATE A ROAD TO GET TO A RELATIVELY FLAT  
10   PART, SOMETIMES THEY'RE NOT. IS THAT CORRECT?

11

12   **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

13

14   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. I JUST WANT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE WITH  
15   THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, THEY'RE HERE. DOES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
16   CONSIDER THE RIDGELINES OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TO BE AN  
17   ADVISABLE LOCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT?

18

19   **SPEAKER:** NO, SUPERVISOR.

20

21   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WHY NOT?

22

23   **SPEAKER:** WELL, THERE'S A FEW REASONS. ONE WOULD BE THAT THE  
24   TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES THAT SURROUND RIDGELINES, BOX CANYONS,  
25   CHIMNEYS, THESE OTHER TERMS THAT WE'VE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH IN



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1 FIREFIGHTING, TEND TO CHANNELS FIRE'S EFFECTS TOWARDS THE  
2 RIDGELINES. ANOTHER ISSUE THAT'S BEEN MENTIONED THIS MORNING  
3 IS THE LACK OF SETBACKS THAT ARE OFTEN AVAILABLE ON  
4 RIDGELINES. NOT ALL HOMES-- THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL  
5 HOMES TO BE ON THE RIDGE AND HAVE ADEQUATE SETBACK. THE OTHER  
6 ISSUE WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING IS ALSO AN ISSUE FOR FIREFIGHTER  
7 SAFETY, IT'S LONG DRIVEWAYS THAT ARE OFTEN NEEDED TO REACH  
8 RIDGELINE HOMES. AND, FINALLY, A LITTLE BIT ABOUT FIRE PHYSICS  
9 IS, WHEN FIRE BURNS UPHILL, HEAT TRANSFER HAPPENS THROUGH  
10 THREE METHODS: CONVECTION, CONDUCTION AND RADIATION. WHEN FIRE  
11 BURNS UPHILL, ALL THREE HEAT TRANSFER METHODS ARE AVAILABLE  
12 AND THAT PREHEATS STRUCTURES AND OTHER VEGETATION ON TOP OF  
13 THE HILLS, MAKES THEM PARTICULARLY FLAMMABLE.

14

15 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO LONG DRIVEWAYS, ASIDE FROM ANY OTHER  
16 CONSIDERATION OF GRADING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCARRING AND THAT  
17 SORT OF THING, FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, IS A  
18 SAFETY ISSUE?

19

20 **SPEAKER:** YES, IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** FOR THE PUBLIC AND FOR YOUR FIREFIGHTERS?

23



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1 **SPEAKER:** CORRECT, BECAUSE USUALLY IT'S ONLY ONE ACCESS, ONE  
2 LONG ACCESS ROAD AND THAT'S WHERE PEOPLE TEND TO BE IN PERIL  
3 WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE.

4

5 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO NOT THAT IT WAS A LONG DRIVEWAY BUT THE  
6 SAME PHYSICAL PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED WHEN WE HAD THE MALIBU  
7 FIRE IN THE MID-'90S AND FIREFIGHTER JANSSEN FROM GLENDALE  
8 FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS SERIOUSLY BURNED OFF CORRAL CANYON ROAD,  
9 THAT WAS THE SAME PHYSICAL PRINCIPLE THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN  
10 A LONG DRIVEWAY WAS INVOLVED IN THAT SITUATION, WHERE HE WAS  
11 CORNERED, HE AND THREE OTHERS, AS I RECALL...

12

13 **SPEAKER:** THAT'S CORRECT.

14

15 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ...WERE CORNERED ON THAT SLOPE?

16

17 **SPEAKER:** YES.

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
20 WORKS, CAN YOU EXPLAIN, IN TERMS THAT A LAYMAN CAN UNDERSTAND,  
21 HOW LARGE IS 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING?

22

23 **SPEAKER:** YES, SUPERVISOR. A COMMON WAY TO EXPLAIN THIS TO LAY  
24 PEOPLE IS IF YOU IMAGINE A ONE-BAY DUMP TRUCK.

25



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1     **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ONE WHAT?

2

3     **SPEAKER:** ONE BAY DUMP TRUCK.

4

5     **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** BIG DUMP TRUCK?

6

7     **SPEAKER:** MM HM, ONE BAY, NOT TWO, DUMP TRUCK.

8

9     **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OH, ONE BAY.

10

11    **SPEAKER:** YES. AND YOU FILLED THAT WITH FULL LOAD, IT WOULD

12    CARRY 10 CUBIC YARDS. SO FOR 5,000 CUBIC YARDS, WE'RE TALKING

13    500 DUMP TRUCKS.

14

15    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** 500 DUMP TRUCKS.

16

17    **SPEAKER:** THE OTHER WAY YOU MIGHT IMAGINE THIS IS IF YOU TOOK A

18    SINGLE-STORY HOME AND THAT SINGLE-STORY HOME WAS 13,500 SQUARE

19    FEET FEET IN SIZE AND YOU FILLED IT WITH DIRT.

20

21    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. DO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS PRESENT

22    EXTRAORDINARY EROSION CONTROL PROBLEMS DURING RAINY SEASON?

23

24    **SPEAKER:** EROSION CONTROL IS A ISSUE ON ANY JOB, ANY GRADING

25    JOB WE HAVE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. HOWEVER, THE SANTA MONICA



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1 MOUNTAINS PRESENT AN ISSUE IN THAT THEY'RE OVER-STEEPENED.  
2 THERE ARE NATURAL DRAINAGE COURSES THROUGHOUT THE SANTA MONICA  
3 MOUNTAINS, WHICH ARE PROTECTED, AND WHICH WE ATTEMPT, ON EVERY  
4 JOB, TO CONTROL EROSION INTO THOSE AREAS AND THEN THE ROADWAYS  
5 AND DRIVEWAYS THAT ARE IN THE SYSTEM THAT ARE IN PLACE IN THE  
6 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS ARE EXTRAORDINARY SUSCEPTIBLE TO  
7 EROSION CONTROL, EROSION ISSUES.

8

9 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONDUCT  
10 A C.E.Q.A., CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, REVIEW ON  
11 GRADING PERMITS TODAY?

12

13 **SPEAKER:** A GRADING PERMIT FOR A SINGLE LOT IS CONSIDERED A  
14 MINISTERIAL ACT OF-- THE ISSUANCE OF THE GRADING PERMIT, SO  
15 TECHNICALLY WE DO MAKE A FINDING THAT IS A MINISTERIAL ACT AND  
16 IT'S EXEMPT FROM C.E.Q.A.

17

18 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IT'S EXEMPT FROM C.E.Q.A.

19

20 **SPEAKER:** YES.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WOULD THAT BE THE CASE, RICK WEISS, OF THE  
23 COUNTY COUNSEL'S OFFICE ALSO ON A DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF?

24





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1   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** YES, SUPERVISOR. IN A NON-  
2   DISCRETIONARY SITE PLAN REVIEW, THAT IS CONSIDERED  
3   MINISTERIAL.

4

5   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAT ARE  
6   AVAILABLE THAT MR. ANTONOVICH READ FROM HIS LIST OF QUESTIONS,  
7   THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES TO THE C.U.P. THAT HE MENTIONED WOULD BE  
8   EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, DIRECTOR  
9   SIGN-OFF, PLOT LAND APPROVAL. IS PLOT PLAN APPROVAL EXEMPT  
10   FROM C.E.Q.A.?

11

12   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THE COUNTY HAS RECENTLY, IN THE LAST  
13   YEAR OR SO, CREATED A SECOND TYPE OF DIRECTORS REVIEW  
14   PROCEDURE, WHICH IS DISCRETIONARY AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO  
15   C.E.Q.A.

16

17   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. I DON'T THINK THAT WAS HIS-- WHERE HE  
18   WAS GOING BUT IT'S CERTAINLY UNDER THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT,  
19   THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
20   AND WOULD REQUIRE A REVIEW. IS THERE A PUBLIC HEARING  
21   ASSOCIATED WITH A DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF OR A PLOT PLAN REVIEW?

22

23   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** NOT FOR MINISTERIAL BUT WITH RESPECT  
24   TO DISCRETIONARY, THERE MAY BE ONE.

25



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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THERE MAY BE BUT THEY'RE NOT REQUIRED. BUT  
2   FOR A NON-DISCRETIONARY, FOR ADMINISTERIAL, THERE'S NO PUBLIC  
3   HEARING. SO SOMEWHERE IN THE BOWELS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
4   DEPARTMENT OR IN THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S DEPARTMENT, THEY  
5   COULD SIGN OFF ON A SIGN-OFF PROCEDURE WITHOUT ANYBODY REALLY  
6   KNOWING UNTIL IT WAS A DONE DEED?

7

8   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT'S CORRECT.

9

10   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IS THAT AN OPTION? BUT, I MEAN, IS IT MORE  
11   THAN LIKELY TO HAPPEN THAT WAY?

12

13   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** WELL, WITH RESPECT TO THE MINISTERIAL  
14   PLOT PLAN REVIEWS, THAT IT IS THE WAY THAT IT HAPPENS. THERE  
15   ARE ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PLOT PLAN REVIEWS ARE  
16   TYPICALLY MINISTERIAL. THERE IS NO PUBLIC NOTICE. THEY'RE DONE  
17   OVER THE COUNTER AND SO THAT WOULD BE THE RULE RATHER THAN THE  
18   EXCEPTION.

19

20   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. I'D LIKE TO JUST ASK A COUPLE OF  
21   OTHER QUESTIONS OR MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS. TO THE PLANNING  
22   FOLKS, YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE JURISDICTIONS IN  
23   THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AREA AND THE CANEO VALLEY, CITY OF  
24   CALABASAS, CITY OF AGOURA HILLS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ORDINANCES  
25   REGARDING GRADING, IS THAT CORRECT?



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1

2 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT'S CORRECT.

3

4 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ARE THERE ANY-- DO ALL OF THE CITIES IN THIS  
5 AREA THAT SURROUND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK  
6 AND STATE PARK AND NATIONAL RECREATION AREA HAVE GRADING  
7 ORDINANCES THAT REQUIRE SOME KIND OF DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL?

8

9 **RON HOFFMAN, REGIONAL PLANNING:** YES.

10

11 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IF THIS ORDINANCE THAT IS BEFORE US TODAY  
12 WERE APPROVED, WOULD IT BE STRONGER OR WEAKER THAN WHAT THE  
13 OTHER CITIES AROUND THE UNINCORPORATED AREA HAVE?

14

15 **RON HOFFMAN, REGIONAL PLANNING:** IT WOULD BE STRONGER THAN SOME  
16 AND WEAKER THAN OTHERS. IT'S KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE.

17

18 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** DO ANY OF THE CITIES OR JURISDICTIONS THAT  
19 YOU HAVE REVIEWED IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY THAT HAVE GRADING  
20 ORDINANCES THAT REQUIRE SOME KIND OF DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL  
21 AFTER A CERTAIN THRESHOLD, DO ANY OF THEM EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS?

22

23 **RON HOFFMAN:** NOT THAT WE'RE AWARE OF.

24



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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. AGOURA HILLS, DOES AGOURA HILLS  
2   EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS?

3

4   **RON HOFFMAN:** AGOURA HILLS-- SPECIFICALLY, WE LOOKED AT AGOURA  
5   HILLS AND CALABASAS FOR THAT PRECISE QUESTION AND NEITHER OF  
6   THOSE EXEMPT.

7

8   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** NEITHER OF THEM EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS. AND I KNOW  
9   THAT COUNCILMAN-- COUNCILMEMBER KUPERBERG IS HERE AND THERE  
10   MAY BE SOME OTHERS HERE, FORMER COUNCILMAN RICHOFF IS HERE  
11   FROM AGOURA HILLS AND THEY CAN SPEAK TO IT ON THEIR OWN. I  
12   JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING, THE GRADING REQUIREMENT  
13   IN SOME OF THE AREAS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS VICINITY,  
14   I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO GO TO BURBANK, WHICH HAS A FOR MORE  
15   RESTRICTIVE-- ANYTHING ABOVE A HUNDRED CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING  
16   IN BURBANK IS DISCRETIONARY. BUT IN AGOURA HILLS, ANY GRADING,  
17   ANY GRADING ON A HILLSIDE LOT IS DISCRETIONARY. AND, IN  
18   CALABASAS, ANY GRADING ON A HILLSIDE LOT IS DISCRETIONARY AND  
19   NO DRIVEWAYS AND NO TURNAROUNDS ARE EXEMPTED. IN THE CITY OF  
20   MALIBU, ALL GRADING IS REVIEWED AND GRADING IS LIMITED TO A  
21   THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS. A THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS. CURRENTLY THE  
22   LAW, THE COUNTY LAW, WHICH IS-- FRANKLY, SPEAKS FOR ITSELF IS  
23   A HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS BY RIGHT. THIS WOULD TAKE  
24   ANOTHER 5,000 CUBIC YARDS, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT FIVE TIMES MORE  
25   LENIENT ON THE GRADING PIECE THAN MALIBU AND A HUNDRED TIMES



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1 MORE-- WELL, ACTUALLY, COMPLETELY WEAKER THAN THE TWO OTHER  
2 CITIES WHICH HAVE NO-- WHICH ALLOW NON-DISCRETION-- NO GRADING  
3 BY RIGHT IN THEIR OWN JURISDICTIONS IN HILLSIDE LOTS. SO I  
4 ACTUALLY THINK THAT THE STAFF HAS DONE A CREDITABLE JOB IN  
5 TRYING TO-- IN TRYING TO WALK A FINE LINE BETWEEN TRYING TO BE  
6 RESPONSIVE TO SOME OF THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED  
7 DURING TWO OR MORE YEARS OF HEARINGS ON THIS AND THE DESIRE TO  
8 PRESERVE THE AREA. NOW, THE LAST THING I WANT TO ASK, JUST I  
9 WANT TO ZERO IN ON THE EQUESTRIAN USES. IS THERE ANYTHING IN  
10 THIS-- DOES THE NORTH AREA PLAN HAVE ANY POLICY THAT-- STATED  
11 POLICY THAT DISCOURAGES HORSE KEEPING OR HAS ANYTHING NEGATIVE  
12 TO SAY ABOUT HORSES OR SETS AS AN OBJECTIVE TO LIMIT HORSES?

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** NO, I THINK THE NORTH AREA PLAN SPECIFICALLY  
15 CONTAINS POLICIES RECOGNIZING THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE SANTA  
16 MONICA MOUNTAINS AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HORSE  
17 KEEPING. THERE IS A POLICY IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN THAT TALKS  
18 ABOUT THE MORE COMMERCIAL TYPE OF EQUESTRIAN USES. THOSE ARE  
19 ALSO ENCOURAGED BUT IN KEEPING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
20 POLICIES.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THIS ORDINANCE-- DOES THIS ORDINANCE BEFORE  
23 US TODAY PROHIBIT EQUESTRIAN USES IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM?

24

25 **RON HOFFMAN:** NO, IT DOES NOT.



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1

**SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND, IF RIDING RINGS WERE THE ISSUE OR, YOU  
KNOW, HALF-MILE ROUND OVALS, A RUNNING TRACK, WHICH ARE NOT  
LIKELY TO BE PROPOSED BUT RIDING RINGS ARE LIKELY TO BE  
PROPOSED ON OCCASION, IF ANY OF THOSE KINDS OF FACILITIES,  
LET'S SAY IT'S 20,000 SQUARE FEET OF FLAT AREA, THEY WOULD  
MOST LIKELY BE CAUGHT BY THE REQUIREMENT IN THE ORDINANCE  
THAT-- CAUGHT, I SHOULD SAY, THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO A  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT BECAUSE THEY WOULD EXCEED THE 15,000  
SQUARE FEET OF DISTURBED AREA THAT'S ALSO-- THERE ARE TWO  
PROVISIONS IN THIS ORDINANCE. ONE IS THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF  
GRADING WHICH, FOR MOST OF US, IS INVIOLEATE AND THAT'S WHAT  
THIS ORDINANCE IS LARGELY ABOUT AND THE OTHER THAT THE  
COMMISSION APPROVED WAS THE 15,000 SQUARE FOOT LIMITATION  
BEFORE YOU HAVE TO DO A C.U.P. ON DISTURBED AREA WHICH, IN  
LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE, CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG, IS YOU'RE  
BASICALLY ENTITLED TO A 15,000-FOOT PAD TO BUILD YOUR HOUSE OR  
YOUR BARN OR YOUR POOL HOUSE OR YOUR GUESTHOUSE, WHATEVER IT  
IS. IS THAT CORRECT?

20

**RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

22

**SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. AND THEN THERE'S A CLEARANCE AREA-- A  
CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AREA BEYOND THAT 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT

24





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1 PERIMETER THAT IS A CLEARANCE AREA FOR FIRE PURPOSES AND THAT  
2 SORT OF THING, IS THAT CORRECT?

3

4 **RON HOFFMAN:** DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF STRUCTURE, THE FIRE  
5 DEPARTMENT REQUIRES THAT KIND OF BRUSH CUTTING.

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IN WORST CASE SCENARIO, A 15,000 FOOT PAD  
8 WOULD BE MAYBE AS MUCH AS 70,000 FEET OF TOTAL AREA, INCLUDING  
9 THE PAD, WITH CLEARANCE, IS MY UNDERSTANDING. IS THAT ABOUT  
10 RIGHT?

11

12 **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S A GOOD ESTIMATE.

13

14 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IF YOU HAVE AN AREA THAT IS GENERALLY FLAT,  
15 AND I'M POSING THIS AS A QUESTION BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO-- I'D  
16 LIKE TO HEAR THE COMMENTS AS THE PUBLIC GETS READY TO TESTIFY,  
17 TO ME, JUST TELL ME IF MY LOGIC IS FLAWED. IF YOU HAVE A FLAT  
18 AREA, WHETHER IT'S 15,000 SQUARE FOOT OF SO-CALLED DISTURBED  
19 AREA AS DEFINED IN THE ORDINANCE OR 20,000 FEET OR 25,000  
20 FEET, IS LESS OF A CONSEQUENCE THAN IF THERE'S 5,000 CUBIC  
21 YARDS OF GRADING THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE. IS THIS A FAIR...

22

23 **RON HOFFMAN:** YES.

24



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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I WOULDN'T BE ACCUSED OF BEING UNREASONABLE  
2   IF I CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION?

3

4   **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

5

6   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WHAT WE TRY TO DO IN THIS ORDINANCE IS TO  
7   ENCOURAGE, THROUGH THE GRADING ORDINANCE ESPECIALLY, AS YOU  
8   TALKED ABOUT TERMS OF THE DRIVEWAYS, IS TO ENCOURAGE PROPERTY  
9   OWNERS TO MOVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT INTO THE ALREADY FLAT PART,  
10  IF THERE IS A NATURALLY FLAT PART OF THE AREA, TO MOVE THEM  
11  THERE UNLESS THEY WANT TO GO THROUGH A CONDITIONAL USE  
12  PROCESS. IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT TO THEM, THEN THEY CAN DO THAT  
13  AND GO THROUGH THE PROCESS BUT, IF THERE'S AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
14  MOVE INTO A FLAT AREA, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO  
15  DO IF THEY DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH A C.U.P. PROCESS. IS THAT  
16  CORRECT?

17

18  **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S ENTIRELY CORRECT.

19

20  **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO IF WE'RE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE INTO  
21  THE FLAT AREA, IT'S OF LESS CONSEQUENCE TO US WHETHER IT'S  
22  15,000 FOOT PAD OR A 30,000 FOOT PAD, OR WHETHER THEY PUT A  
23  20,000 FOOT HOUSE THERE OR WHETHER THEY PUT A 3,500 FOOT HOUSE  
24  THERE AND A RIDING RING, RIGHT?

25



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1   **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S RIGHT.

2

3   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. BECAUSE ONE OF THE THINGS I'M  
4   LOOKING AT SUGGESTING, I'M CERTAINLY GOING TO OPPOSE THE--  
5   WHAT I'VE SEEN FLOATING AROUND IN TERMS OF EXEMPTING DRIVEWAYS  
6   AND ALL THESE THINGS FROM THE GRADING ORDINANCE. I THINK THE  
7   GRADING THING IS A VERY, VERY KEY ELEMENT OF THIS AND TO GUT  
8   THAT WOULD BE A TRAVESTY. BUT I AM LOOKING AT THE 15,000-FOOT  
9   DISTURBED AREA PIECE BECAUSE I THINK WE'RE LARGELY PROTECTED.  
10   I MEAN, I THINK WE'RE MOSTLY PROTECTED. EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T  
11   HAVE THE 15,000-FOOT THRESHOLD ON THE-- FOR THE PADS, THAT YOU  
12   WOULD BE LARGELY PROTECTED BECAUSE WHAT WE'RE REALLY CONCERNED  
13   ABOUT IS A 15,000 OR 20 OR 30,000-FOOT PAD THAT ALSO HAS 10  
14   THOUSAND FEET OF GRADING THAT'S RIPPING UP A MOUNTAIN, THAT'S  
15   SAWING OFF A MOUNTAIN RIDGE AND THAT SORT OF THING. WE WANT TO  
16   BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THAT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS. WE DON'T WANT  
17   THAT HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AS SOME OF THE  
18   PEOPLE IN THIS AUDIENCE ARE WELL AWARE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE  
19   ISSUE WE'VE HAD HAPPEN. SO WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT. AND  
20   WHAT I'M LOOKING AT AND I'D LOVE TO HEAR THE COMMENTS,  
21   ESPECIALLY FROM THE EQUESTRIAN ADVOCATES, IS IF THAT 15,000-  
22   FOOT THRESHOLD ISSUE WAS TOTALLY ELIMINATED FROM THIS  
23   ORDINANCE, YOU KNOW, HOW THAT WOULD-- HOW RESPONSIVE THAT  
24   WOULD BE TO THEIR CONCERNS. NOW, LET ME ASK YOU, YOU'VE LOOKED  
25   AT THE LAST-- AND THIS WILL BE MY LAST QUESTION, MR.



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1 PRESIDENT-- MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE KIND OF  
2 APPLICATIONS WE'VE HAD IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AREA, IN  
3 THE NORTH AREA PLANNING AREA FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. IS  
4 THAT CORRECT?

5

6 **RON HOFFMAN:** RIGHT. YES, SIR.

7

8 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** HOW MANY APPLICATIONS, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW  
9 OFFHAND, HAVE WE HAD FOR RIDING RINGS OR EQUESTRIAN USES?  
10 GRADING THAT-- FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

11

12 **RON HOFFMAN:** I DON'T KNOW THAT ANSWER.

13

14 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. FAIR ENOUGH.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** SUPERVISOR? I DO KNOW AND IT'S VERY FEW APPLICATIONS  
17 FOR A RIDING ARENA.

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** VERY FEW. VERY FEW FOR RIDING RINGS AND WE  
20 HAVEN'T HAD ANY REQUESTS FOR MILE OVALS OR HALF-MILE OVALS,  
21 RUNNING TRACKS, I KNOW THAT AND I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD  
22 SUGGEST THAT. SO IF WE'RE LOOKING AT RIDING RINGS AND STABLES  
23 ADJACENT TO THAT, IF IT'S IN A FLAT AREA AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE  
24 TO GO THROUGH A C.U.P. BASED ON A LIFTING OF THE 15,000-FOOT  
25 THRESHOLD, I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE A COMPROMISE THAT AT LEAST



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1 ALLEVIATES SOME OF THAT. IT WILL NOT ALLEVIATE THE PEOPLE WHO  
2 ARE HERE FOR WHATEVER REASON AND WANT TO EXEMPT ANYBODY FROM  
3 SOME KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND THE ONE THAT'S BEEN  
4 CHOSEN HERE, AND I THINK APPROPRIATELY BY THE PLANNING  
5 DEPARTMENT, IS THE CONDITIONAL USE PROCESS FOR GRADING OVER  
6 5,000 CUBIC YARDS. THAT'S A LOT OF GRADING. WE ARE IN A AREA  
7 THAT IS SURROUNDED BY A NATIONAL PARK, BY STATE PARKS. THERE'S  
8 A HUGE PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN THIS. I MIGHT ADD IT IS NOT, AS  
9 SOMEBODY HAS CIRCULATED, GOING TO DROP ANYBODY'S PROPERTY  
10 VALUES. THE ONLY CRITICISM THAT WE'VE EVER HAD FROM PRO  
11 DEVELOPMENT TYPES IS THAT THESE KINDS OF ORDINANCES TEND TO BE  
12 SELFISH ORDINANCES PROMOTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE TO  
13 DRIVE THEIR PROPERTY VALUES UP BECAUSE IT MAKES IT HARDER TO  
14 DEVELOP, ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT THE INTENT HERE, EITHER. BUT IT'S  
15 GOING TO DROP ANYBODY'S PROPERTY VALUE AND IT'S NOT GOING TO  
16 PROHIBIT HORSES AND IT'S NOT GOING TO PROHIBIT-- THERE'S NO  
17 PROHIBITION IN THIS ORDINANCE WHATSOEVER. IT DOES SET A  
18 THRESHOLD BY WHICH THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO--  
19 BEYOND A CERTAIN THRESHOLD, TO REVIEW, AND I THINK THAT'S  
20 APPROPRIATE. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DEAL WITH SOME  
21 OF THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED AND I THINK,  
22 IF WE CAN GET SOME COMMENTS ON THAT DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING  
23 THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

24

25 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN?



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES?

3

4 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** PUBLIC WORKS, HOW MANY CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING  
5 WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT A TYPICAL DRIVEWAY ON A  
6 REMAINING VACANT PARCEL WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTH  
7 AREA?

8

9 **SPEAKER:** THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER, SUPERVISOR, IN  
10 THAT THE TERRAIN IS UNDULATING. IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERY SITE.  
11 AN AVERAGE AMOUNT OF GRADING IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS IS  
12 LESS THAN THE THRESHOLD THAT WE ARE SEEING THE ORDINANCE SET  
13 AT. A DRIVEWAY, IN A DIFFICULT PIECE OF PROPERTY, MAY GO UP TO  
14 10,000 CUBIC YARDS BUT WE SEE AS LITTLE AS A THOUSAND YARDS ON  
15 MANY PROJECTS.

16

17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING WOULD BE  
18 REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT A TYPICAL FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNAROUND ON  
19 A REMAINING VACANT PARCEL WITHIN THOSE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTH  
20 AREA PLAN?

21

22 **SPEAKER:** A TURNAROUND FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS A 40-FOOT  
23 HAMMER HEAD. YOU'RE LOOKING AT PROBABLY LESS THAN A THOUSAND  
24 YARDS IN ANY GIVEN HAMMER HEAD.

25





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1    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IS THE TURNAROUND FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT A  
2    REQUIREMENT, MEANING A CONDITION IMPOSED BY THE COUNTY?

3

4    **SPEAKER:** A CONDITION FOR A TURNAROUND IS BASED ON THE LENGTH  
5    OF DRIVEWAY. IF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS TO ENTER THE PROPERTY  
6    TO SUPPRESS FIRE WITH A FIRE ENGINE, THEY'RE GOING TO NEED A  
7    TURNAROUND.

8

9    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO IT'S IMPOSED BY THE COUNTY?

10

11   **SPEAKER:** YES, IT IS, SUPERVISOR.

12

13   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DOES THE TURNAROUND REQUIREMENT APPLY TO ALL  
14   OTHER REMAINING PARCELS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTH  
15   AREA PLAN?

16

17   **SPEAKER:** I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T HEAR THE QUESTION.

18

19   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DOES THE TURNAROUND REQUIREMENT APPLY TO ALL  
20   OF THE REMAINING PARCELS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTH AREA  
21   PLAN?

22

23   **SPEAKER:** IT COULD APPLY TO THESE PARCELS IF THEY ARE FAR  
24   ENOUGH OFF A PUBLIC WAY.

25



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1   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING WOULD IT BE  
2   REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT A BARN OR A STABLE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES  
3   OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN?

4

5   **SPEAKER:** A TYPICAL BARN AND STABLE IS GOING TO BE SOMETHING  
6   LESS THAN 2500 CUBIC YARDS.

7

8   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING WOULD BE  
9   REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT THE HORSE CORRAL WITHIN THOSE  
10   BOUNDARIES?

11

12   **SPEAKER:** A HORSE CORRAL OR A RIDING ARENA IS TYPICALLY ONE  
13   FOOT DEEP OF FILL. ONE FOOT DEEP FILL IS ACTUALLY EXEMPT FROM  
14   THE GRADING ORDINANCE AND GRADING PERMIT, UNLESS WE'RE IN A  
15   SLOPING TERRAIN AND THEN IT CAN GET GIGANTIC.

16

17   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO...

18

19   **SPEAKER:** THE OUTSIDE LIMIT ON A HILLSIDE, IF WE WENT AND CUT  
20   INTO THE HILLSIDE, THE OUTSIDE LIMIT ON THAT MIGHT BE 10 TO  
21   20,000 YARDS. THE INSIDE AND THE FLAT AREA, YOU MAY NOT EVEN  
22   BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A GRADING PERMIT.

23

24   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING WOULD BE  
25   REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT A RIDING RINK WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES?



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1

2 **SPEAKER:** A RIDING RINK, NOT DRESSAGE. AGAIN, MOST LIKELY,  
3 THAT'S WITHIN A THOUSAND YARDS.

4

5 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IS IT LIKELY THAT MANY OF THE PROJECT  
6 COMPONENTS, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES, DRIVEWAYS, FIRE  
7 DEPARTMENT TURNAROUNDS, EQUESTRIAN-RELATED USES, EITHER ALONE  
8 OR IN COMBINATION, WOULD SURPASS THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS?

9

10 **SPEAKER:** ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT LIKELY. [ LAUGHTER ]

11

12 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** OF GRADING OF 15,000-- OF 15,000 SQUARE FOOT  
13 OF PAD AREA, THAT WOULD TRIGGER A C.U.P.?

14

15 **SPEAKER:** I HAVE NOT FOUND THAT TO BE LIKELY.

16

17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WOULD NOT BE LIKELY?

18

19 **SPEAKER:** WOULD NOT BE LIKELY.

20

21 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** COUNTY COUNSEL, IS THE EFFECT OF THE  
22 ORDINANCE TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE-FAMILY  
23 DWELLING ON A LOT WHERE IT IS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY THE  
24 GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING LIMITATIONS IN APPROVING THE



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1 ORDINANCE, WOULD THE COUNTY BE INVITING A INVERSE CONDEMNATION  
2 CLAIM BY PROPERTY OWNERS?

3

4 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, AS MR. HOFFMAN  
5 INDICATED, THE ORDINANCE DOES NOT PROHIBIT ANYTHING. IT  
6 REQUIRES FURTHER DISCRETIONARY REVIEW WHEN THRESHOLDS ARE MADE  
7 BUT WE HAVE REVIEWED THE ORDINANCE. AS STAFF HAS INDICATED,  
8 THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS THAT IMPOSE A RIDGELINE  
9 AND GRADING LIMITATIONS. THAT IS WELL WITHIN YOUR POLICE  
10 POWER. WE BELIEVE THERE'S A RATIONAL BASIS THAT THIS WOULD NOT  
11 PREVENT ALL ECONOMICALLY VIABLE USE OF PROPERTY AND THEREFORE  
12 WE CAN'T STOP SOMEBODY FROM PROPOSING AN ATTACK BUT WE DON'T  
13 BELIEVE THAT YOUR BOARD WOULD BE INVITING LIABILITY UNDER  
14 INVERSE CONDEMNATION.

15

16 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THE PROPONENTS HAVE ARGUED THAT THE NORTH  
17 AREA PLAN EXEMPTED THE REMAINING LOTS FROM FURTHER  
18 RESTRICTIONS. IS THAT AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF THE PLAN?

19

20 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** NOT IN OUR OPINION, SUPERVISOR, AND  
21 OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE GONE BACK OVER THE TRANSCRIPT AND SAW THE  
22 LANGUAGE AND THE BACK AND FORTH THAT YOU MENTIONED EARLIER.  
23 THERE WAS A LOT OF TESTIMONY AT THAT TIME PRIMARILY RELATED TO  
24 THE DECISION IN THE PLAN TO CHANGE THE ALLOWABLE DENSITY IN  
25 VARIOUS AREAS OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND, AS A RESULT



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1 OF THAT, THERE IS A PROVISION IN THE PLAN THAT INDICATES THAT  
2 EXISTING LEGAL LOTS MAY BE DEVELOPED IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR  
3 SIZE AS LONG AS THEY COMPLY WITH CURRENT DEVELOPMENT  
4 STANDARDS. THAT WAS NOT, IN OUR OPINION, EVER INTENDED TO BE  
5 NOR IS THAT PROPERLY READ AS BEING A GUARANTEE TO ANYBODY THAT  
6 NO FURTHER LOT SPECIFIC, PROPERTY SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT  
7 STANDARDS WOULD BE ENACTED. IN FACT, IT WOULD BE COUNTER  
8 INTUITIVE GIVEN ALL THE POLICIES IN THE PLAN TO ASSUME THAT  
9 THERE WOULD NOT BE LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP ZONING REGULATIONS THAT  
10 WOULD PROVIDE FOR REGULATION OF USES AND STANDARDS ON THE  
11 PROPERTY.

12

13 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** EVEN WHEN MR. STARK SAYS "NO," "NO" IS NOT  
14 "NO"?

15

16 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** I THINK, AS MR. HOFFMAN INDICATED, THE  
17 PLAN ITSELF DID NOT CREATE ANY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT,  
18 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS. THE  
19 ANSWER-- PROBABLY IN HONESTY WAS INCOMPLETE AND PROBABLY THE  
20 ANSWER SHOULD HAVE BEEN "HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTING  
21 ORDINANCES THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO YOUR BOARD FOR YOUR  
22 BOARD'S CONSIDERATION VERY WELL COULD INCLUDE FURTHER AND  
23 HEIGHTENED DISCRETIONARY REVIEW." THAT WOULD HAVE AND ALWAYS  
24 IS THE NORM FOR YOUR AREA PLANS AND YOUR COMMUNITY STANDARDS  
25 DISTRICTS.



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1

2 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT  
3 DAY WAS NOT ACCURATE?

4

5 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** I-- I-- RESPECTFULLY, I WOULDN'T PUT  
6 IT THAT WAY. I THINK IT WAS TRUE AT THE TIME AND I THINK IT  
7 WAS TAKEN SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONTEXT. WHEN YOUR BOARD ADOPTED THE  
8 COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT FOR THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
9 NORTH AREA PLAN, I MEAN, THIS IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE C.S.D.  
10 THE C.S.D. WAS ADOPTED IN 2002. AT THAT TIME, WHEN THE C.S.D.  
11 WAS ADOPTED, IT CREATED THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW C.U.P.S, SO  
12 THIS IS NOT A NEW ISSUE. THE CASTAIC COMMUNITY STANDARDS  
13 DISTRICT THAT WILL BE COMING BACK SOON, THE ROWLAND HEIGHTS  
14 COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT, WHICH YOUR BOARD ADOPTED TODAY,  
15 ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS CREATE ADDITIONAL  
16 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW AND C.U.P. REQUIREMENTS TO ADDRESS THE  
17 SPECIFIC AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS  
18 DISTRICTS.

19

20 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BUT DO THE PLANS ALSO PROTECT THE EQUESTRIAN  
21 COMMUNITY?

22

23 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THE NORTH AREA PLAN DOES INCLUDE  
24 POLICIES THAT RECOGNIZE AND ENCOURAGE EQUESTRIAN USES BUT NO  
25 ONE POLICY CAN BE TAKEN IN THE ABSTRACT AND TO HEIGHTEN THE





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1 IMPORTANCE OF EQUESTRIAN USES OVER THE OTHER POLICIES IN THE  
2 PLAN WITH RESPECT TO VISUAL BIOTIC RESOURCES IS CERTAINLY NOT  
3 REQUIRED.

4

5 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BUT DID NOT THE COUNTY HAVE A MOTION WHICH  
6 REQUESTED THAT POLICIES WOULD BE TO PROTECT EQUESTRIANS?

7

8 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THERE ARE POLICIES IN THE PLAN THAT  
9 ARE THERE TO RECOGNIZE AND TO ENCOURAGE EQUESTRIAN USES BUT I  
10 DON'T BELIEVE TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHER POLICIES IN THE PLAN.  
11 THAT IS OBVIOUSLY YOUR BOARD'S FINAL DECISION BUT THE FACT  
12 THAT THERE ARE POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE EQUESTRIAN USES IN NO  
13 WAY PREVENTS YOUR BOARD FROM LOOKING AT OTHER IMPORTANT  
14 POLICIES AND ENACTING REGULATIONS TO SERVE THOSE OTHER  
15 POLICIES.

16

17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** BUT WE HAD A MOTION THAT I HAD PASSED BY THE  
18 BOARD A WHILE AGO THAT INDICATED THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE  
19 SENSITIVE, I'M LOOKING FOR THE LANGUAGE, ON THE ISSUE OF  
20 EQUESTRIANS AND PROTECTING EQUESTRIAN DEVELOPMENTS.

21

22 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** IT IS TRUE THAT EQUESTRIAN USE IS JUST  
23 LIKE ANY OTHER USES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, IF THEY  
24 PROVIDE FOR GRADING THAT MEETS-- THAT EXCEEDS THE THRESHOLD OR  
25 THAT PROVIDES FOR STRUCTURES WITHIN THE SETBACKS, THE



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1 RIDGELINES WILL BE IMPACTED BUT THEY WILL BE IMPACTED JUST  
2 LIKE ANY OF THE OTHER USES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.

3

4 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THE MOTION DIRECTED STAFF TO TAKE MEASURES TO  
5 FACILITATE HORSE KEEPING COUNTYWIDE AND THAT WAS THE MOTION  
6 THAT WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD IN THE POLICY. BUT IT APPEARS  
7 THAT THIS ORDINANCE TAKES THE COUNTY IN THE OPPOSITE  
8 DIRECTION. SO IF A MOTION IS TO BE APPROVED TODAY, THERE HAS  
9 TO BE A PROTECTION OF THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY IN THAT FINAL  
10 APPROVAL PROCESS.

11

12 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** IT IS OBVIOUSLY YOUR BOARD'S DECISION  
13 AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO-- AS TO WHICH OF THE POLICIES  
14 YOU BELIEVE REQUIRE BEING GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY BUT THERE  
15 ARE MANY POLICIES IN THE PLAN THAT PROMOTE THE REGULATIONS ON  
16 RIDGELINE AND SKYLINE DEVELOPMENT AND GRADING, WHICH THIS  
17 ORDINANCE IS CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH AND IN FURTHERANCE OF.

18

19 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THANK YOU.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ALL RIGHT. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? AS IT  
22 RELATES TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES HERE ABOUT THE ISSUE OF  
23 GRANDFATHERING EXISTING USES OR PROPERTIES INTO-- MAYBE YOU'D  
24 LIKE TO CLARIFY THAT AS WELL.

25



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1   **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THE COMMISSION FORWARDED TO YOUR BOARD  
2   A VERSION OF THE ORDINANCE THAT INCLUDES A PROVISION THAT  
3   PROVIDES THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF ENTITLEMENTS, GENERAL PLANS,  
4   ZONE CHANGE, TENTATIVE MAPS AND SO FORTH, IF THEY ARE NEW  
5   DEVELOPMENTS AND THEY ARE IN THE PIPELINE AND THEY'RE READY TO  
6   BE SET FOR HEARING, THAT THOSE MATTERS WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM  
7   THE NEW REGULATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE. YOU MAY WISH TO  
8   CONSIDER, ALONG WITH THAT, EXEMPTING AND IT WOULD BE WITHIN  
9   YOUR BOARD'S AUTHORITY, ALREADY APPROVED DEVELOPMENTS WHERE  
10   THE GRADING WAS CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE BODY, WHETHER IT  
11   IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, PLANNING COMMISSION OR YOUR BOARD,  
12   IF THE GRADING IS THEN CONDUCTED IN SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMANCE  
13   WITH WHAT THE COUNTY APPROVED AT THAT TIME, BUT THAT IS WITHIN  
14   YOUR BOARD'S AUTHORITY.

15

16   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

17

18   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, JUST ON THE GRANDFATHERING  
19   ISSUE, I THINK YOU RAISE A GOOD POINT. I WANT TO ASK THE  
20   FOLLOWING QUESTION OF WHOEVER CAN ANSWER IT, BECAUSE THERE'S  
21   BEEN SOME MISINFORMATION, I BELIEVE. IF I OWN A HOUSE IN THE  
22   NORTH AREA PLAN THAT REQUIRED 25,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING  
23   AND I DID IT AND I BUILT MY HOUSE ON A 25,000-FOOT PAD, LET'S  
24   ASSUME THE 15,000-FOOT STAYS IN FOR THE SAKE OF THIS QUESTION,  
25   AND I WANTED TO GRADE ANOTHER 4,500 YARDS UNDER THIS



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1 ORDINANCE, WOULD I BE PERMITTED TO GRADE WITHOUT A CONDITIONAL  
2 USE PERMIT?

3

4 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** YES, YOU WOULD.

5

6 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND IF I HAD A 25,000-FOOT PAD AND I WANTED  
7 TO EXPAND THAT PAD BY ANOTHER 15,000 FEET, IF THE 15,000-FOOT  
8 THRESHOLD WAS STILL IN, WOULD I BE ENTITLED TO DO THAT WITHOUT  
9 A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT?

10

11 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** IF YOU DID 14,999.

12

13 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** 14,999. SO THE ARGUMENT THAT, IF YOU HAVE A  
14 HOUSE, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO ADD A BATHROOM TO YOUR HOUSE  
15 IS NOT TRUE, IS THAT CORRECT?

16

17 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT IS NOT TRUE.

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OR THAT YOU CAN'T ADD ANOTHER 1,000 SQUARE  
20 FEET OR 2,000 SQUARE FEET, YOU CAN ACTUALLY ADD WHATEVER YOU  
21 WANT TO ADD AS LONG AS IT'S IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE ZONING AND  
22 THIS PROSPECTIVELY, THIS ORDINANCE IS PROSPECTIVE.

23

24 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT'S CORRECT.

25



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1    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ANYTHING YOU HAVE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS  
2    ORDINANCE THAT YOU'VE DONE UNDER PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED LAW IS  
3    NOT COUNTED AGAINST YOU. IS THAT CORRECT?

4

5    **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT'S CORRECT.

6

7    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I THINK THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR EVERYBODY  
8    HERE TO UNDERSTAND. THANK YOU.

9

10   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, ON PUBLIC WORKS, CUBIC YARDS  
11   ARE CUMULATIVE, SO IF YOU HAD 1,000 CUBIC YARDS OF CUT AND YOU  
12   MOVED A THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS OF FILL, THEN YOU HAVE 2,000  
13   CUBIC YARDS?

14

15   **SPEAKER:** THE WAY THE ORDINANCE IS DRAFTED, THAT'S CORRECT. THE  
16   YARDAGE WOULD BE ADDED, A CUT WOULD BE ADDED TO THE FILL  
17   AMOUNT.

18

19   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO YOU'RE COUNTING THE SAME DIRT TWICE?

20

21   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO YOU'RE COUNTING THE SAME DIRT TWICE?

22

23   **SPEAKER:** FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YES, BUT YOU'RE ALSO  
24   TAKING THE CUT AND PLACING IT SOMEWHERE ELSE ON THE PROPERTY  
25   SO THE CUT BECOMES A FILL. YES, IT IS COUNTED TWICE.



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1

2 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THAT YOU'RE MOVING IT TWICE. SO MANY LOTS  
3 COULD ONLY BE DEVELOPED WITH A LENGTHY DRIVEWAY, AND WHEN YOU  
4 ADD THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S TURNAROUND, 5,000 CUBIC YARDS  
5 SPECIALS WOULD BE REACHED ON LOTS WITH EVEN A SMALL OR, AS I  
6 SAY, A LITTLE SLOPE. SO A HOUSE PAD TWO TO 3,000 CUBIC YARDS,  
7 A DRIVEWAY IS A THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS OF TURNAROUND, ONE TO  
8 2,000 CUBIC YARDS, AND THEN IF YOU-- IF IT'S CUMULATIVE, YOU  
9 KNOW, YOU'RE 10, 15,000 YARDS RIGHT THERE. [ APPLAUSE ]

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE, PLEASE. [ GAVEL ] [ APPLAUSE  
12 CONTINUES ] [ GAVEL CONTINUES ]

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE.

15

16 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO WHEN WE MENTIONED THE CUBIC YARDS AND  
17 THAT, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'RE BEING AS TRUTHFUL IN SAYING THE  
18 IMPACT THAT IT HAS. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A THOUSAND CUBIC  
19 YARDS. MANY TIMES, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TWICE THAT AMOUNT JUST  
20 BECAUSE THEY'RE CUMULATIVE AND NOT CUMULATIVE AND SO IF THERE  
21 ARE AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCESS, THOSE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE TO  
22 BE FACTORED IN.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

25





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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I JUST, MR. CHAIRMAN, WANT TO REITERATE  
2   THAT, IN ALL OF THE JURISDICTIONS IN THE SANTA MONICA  
3   MOUNTAINS, MAYBE IT'S DIFFERENT IN CASTAIC, BUT IN THE SANTA  
4   MONICA MOUNTAINS, WHERE WE VALUE OUR-- WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR  
5   RESOURCES, THERE ISN'T A JURISDICTION THAT IS AS LENIENT ON  
6   GRADING AS THIS ORDINANCE PROPOSES TO BE. AND THEY ALL MEASURE  
7   GRADING THE SAME WAY. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY GRADING RIGHTS  
8   WITHOUT A DISCRETIONARY REVIEW IN AGOURA HILLS. YOU HAVE NO  
9   GRADING RIGHTS IN CALABASAS, IN A HILLSIDE AREA, WITHOUT  
10   DISCRETIONARY REVIEW. IN BURBANK, WHICH IS IN YOUR DISTRICT,  
11   MR. ANTONOVICH, A HUNDRED CUBIC YARDS IN HILLSIDE AREAS,  
12   ANYTHING ABOVE THAT, YOU GOT TO GO THROUGH A CONDITIONAL USE  
13   AND ON AND ON. SO THIS IS A 5,000. THIS ISN'T A HUNDRED OR 50  
14   OR NOTHING, IT'S 5,000 AND SOME PEOPLE THINK WE HAVEN'T GONE  
15   FAR ENOUGH. SO IT'S ALL RELATIVE. [ APPLAUSE ]

16

17   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IN THE CASTAIC... [ GAVEL ]

18

19   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE.

20

21   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** IN CASTAIC, WE WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND  
22   WE HAD ALL ELEMENTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE TO THE  
23   EQUESTRIAN SIDE, FROM THE CHAMBER SIDE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL  
24   SIDE AND IT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, SO THAT'S THE  
25   DIFFERENCE.



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB IN CASTAIC.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, I MEAN, THE OTHER CONSIDERATION, ZEV,  
5 I MEAN, YOU CAN TAKE A CHEAP SHOT IF YOU WANT.

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I AGREE. NO, IT'S NOT.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I MEAN, YOU CAN TAKE A CHEAP SHOT.

10

11 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THAT'S NOT A CHEAP SHOT. IT'S JUST A  
12 DIFFERENT AREA, THAT'S ALL.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? IF NOT, WE'LL  
15 MOVE TO THE TESTIMONY. AND, AS I MENTIONED-- OKAY. WE'RE GOING  
16 TO MOVE AND ASK SOME OF THOSE IN FAVOR AND THEN SOME OPPOSED  
17 SO WE CAN ALTERNATE SO EVERYBODY REALLY GETS A FAIR SHARE AT  
18 THIS. AND I KNOW SOME PEOPLE HAD TO LEAVE AND, YOU KNOW, JUST  
19 TRY TO AVOID THE REDUNDANT TESTIMONY. FIRST OF ALL, FROM  
20 AGOURA HILLS, THE MAYOR, DAN KUPERBERG, COUNCILMEMBER, LESLIE  
21 DEVINE AND LOUISE RISHOFF. BE THE FIRST THREE. AND, AGAIN, I  
22 KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT WE DO NOT ALLOW APPLAUSE, EITHER FOR OR  
23 AGAINST, BOOING, HISSING. IF NOT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE  
24 OF BUSINESS ANOTHER WAY, SO WE JUST APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION  
25 TO ALL THE SPEAKERS.



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1

2 **MAYOR DAN KUPERBERG:** GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. CHAIR, BOARD OF

3 SUPERVISORS. MY NAME IS DAN KUPERBERG. I'M THE MAYOR OF AGOURA

4 HILLS. I AM HERE BEFORE YOU REPRESENTING THE CITIZENS OF

5 AGOURA HILLS AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF AGOURA HILLS URGING YOUR

6 ADOPTION OF THE GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. AGOURA HILLS

7 WAS A WILLING PARTNER WITH L.A. COUNTY IN THE CREATION OF THE

8 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA PLAN, A LAND USE DOCTRINE

9 THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY. THE NORTH

10 AREA PLAN IS PRESERVATION MINDED, YET FAIR ON LAND USE ISSUES.

11 AND IT TRULY REPRESENTS THE OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS OF THE

12 COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT IS THE RESULT OF THE HARD WORK OF THE

13 COMMUNITY BY YOUR COUNTY'S ELECTED AND STAFF, BY OUR CITY'S

14 ELECTED AND STAFF AND THE LOCAL CITIZENS. HOWEVER, TO ENSURE

15 THAT THE NORTH AREA PLAN REMAINS A VIABLE WORKING PLAN AND A

16 VISION FOR THE ENTIRE REGION, THERE MUST BE STRONG ORDINANCES

17 THAT EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES. ONLY SUCH ORDINANCES,

18 LIKE THE ONES BEFORE YOU TODAY, WILL ALLOW YOU AND THE SANTA

19 MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA PLAN TO PROPERLY MAXIMIZE THE

20 PRESERVATION OF THE AREA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE STILL

21 ACCOMMODATING NEW USES WITH MINIMAL IMPACTS. IT WILL ENSURE

22 THAT NEW DEVELOPMENT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE QUALITY OF THE

23 EXISTING COMMUNITIES. THE ORDINANCE IS CONSISTENT WITH A NORTH

24 AREA PLAN'S GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WHICH IS LET THE LAND DICTATE

25 THE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF ITS USE. THE LAND DICTATES, NOT



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1 DEVELOPERS, NOT THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT, NOR  
2 LAND DEVELOPERS HIDING BEHIND CLEVER LAND USE NAMES BUT BASED  
3 ON FAIR AND STRONG STANDARDS DESIGNED FOR THE REGION AND THE  
4 COMMUNITY. LET THE LAND DICTATE THE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF THE  
5 USE. THE GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE DOES NOT PROHIBIT  
6 LAND USAGE BUT IT OFFERS APPROPRIATE PROTECTIONS. AS  
7 SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY SAID, IT DOESN'T OFFER THE SAME KIND OF  
8 PROTECTIONS THAT WE DO IN AGOURA HILLS BUT IT'S GETTING THERE.  
9 AND AGOURA HILLS DOES NOT EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS. AS YOU KNOW, ON  
10 APRIL 14TH OF THIS YEAR, THE CITY COUNCIL OF AGOURA HILLS  
11 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRADING AND  
12 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE BEFORE YOU. ON BEHALF OF MY CITY, MY CITY  
13 COUNCIL AND THE RESIDENTS OF AGOURA HILLS, I APPLAUD AND  
14 APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
15 WORK TO PROTECT OUR LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND URGE YOU  
16 TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE BEFORE YOU. THANK YOU.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU, MAYOR.

19

20 **COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE:** HELLO. I HOPE I HAVE THIS RIGHT.  
21 I'M COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY, LESLIE, JUST EXCUSE ME A MINUTE. IS  
24 LOUISE STILL HERE? IF NOT, I'LL CALL JOE EVANSTON. LOUISE IS  
25 NOT...



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1

2 **SPEAKER:** (OFF-MIKE).

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. I'VE GOT YOU. YOU'RE IN THE LIST  
5 HERE. OKAY. JOE, COME ON UP.

6

7 **COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE:** SHALL I?

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES. GO AHEAD.

10

11 **COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE:** I'LL START OVER. HI, I'M  
12 COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE FROM THE CITY OF CALABASAS. OUR  
13 CITY HAS GIVEN YOU IT'S FORMAL LETTER, THAT'S IN YOUR RECORDS  
14 BEFORE AND AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION SO I AM SPEAKING HERE AS  
15 THE CITY'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH AREA PLAN. AS YOU ALL  
16 PROBABLY KNOW, WE HAVE SPENT YEARS DEVELOPING THAT NORTH AREA  
17 PLAN WITH LARGE CITIZENS COMMITTEE, A POLICY COMMITTEE AND  
18 HAVE CONTINUED THE WONDERFUL COLLABORATIVE WORK THROUGH  
19 QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH THE COUNTY AND ALL THE JURISDICTIONS  
20 ON THESE LAND USE ISSUES. I THINK THAT THE KEY OF THE NORTH  
21 AREA PLAN WAS THAT NOBODY GOT EVERYTHING THEY WANTED,  
22 EVERYBODY GOT A LITTLE OF SOMETHING THAT THEY WANTED AND SO,  
23 CONSEQUENTLY, NOW ALL ARE HAPPY WITH THAT PLAN. TODAY BEFORE  
24 YOU, AS A GRADING ORDINANCE MISNAMED IS REALLY AN  
25 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN, ANOTHER PIECE OF THE



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1 PUZZLE THAT PUTS THE SENSITIVE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS INTO  
2 SOME SORT OF SENSIBLE ARRANGEMENT. WITH THAT IN MIND, I WOULD  
3 URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THIS AS PASSED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING  
4 COMMISSION AS THEY HAVE BROUGHT FORTH THIS IMPLEMENTATION  
5 PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, I THINK VERY SENSITIVELY WITH PUBLIC  
6 SAFETY AS THE NUMBER ONE CONSIDERATION. THEY RECOGNIZED AND  
7 DEALT WITH THE VERY SENSITIVE GEOLOGY THAT IS IN THE SANTA  
8 MONICA MOUNTAINS, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE FIRE, FLOOD AND SHAKE  
9 AND BAKE AND OUR MOUNTAINS DO FALL DOWN, AND THEY HAVE TAKEN  
10 INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXTREME CHALLENGES OF SUCH A FIRE PRONE  
11 AREA AND THEY HAVE DONE THIS WHILE PROTECTING THE RURAL  
12 LIFESTYLE OF THE REGION. ONE OF THE THINGS THE REGION HAS BEEN  
13 PLAGUED BY CONSISTENTLY, FROM MALIBU THROUGH CALABASAS,  
14 AGOURA, WEST LAKE, ALL OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, IS  
15 WILLY-NILLY ROAD BUILDING. IT'S THE SATURDAY SPECIAL OF  
16 EVERYBODY'S BULLDOZER GOING UP A HILL AND SAYING, "GEE, I JUST  
17 NEEDED A ROAD." IN FACT...

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

20

21 **COUNCILMEMBER LESLIE DEVINE:** OKAY. IN FACT, THIS WILL INCREASE  
22 THE PROPERTY VALUES, AS RIGHT NOW THE LOTS THAT ARE LEFT ARE  
23 EITHER TINY, UNBUILDABLE, OR THEY ARE OF DECENT OR VERY LARGE  
24 SIZE AND THOSE LOTS GO FROM A MILLION TO TWO MILLION AND UP  
25 JUST FOR THE LOT. THIS WILL PROTECT THAT VERY CONSIDERABLE





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1 INVESTMENT THAT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BUILD MAKE. AND SO I ASK  
2 YOU TO LOOK AT THE BALANCE THE PLANNING COMMISSION DID AND I  
3 APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. JOSEPH?

6

7 **JOSEPH EDMUNDSTON:** MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS, JOSEPH  
8 EDMUNDSTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
9 CONSERVANCY. WE SUPPORT THE ORDINANCE. LET ME GIVE YOU A  
10 PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF WHY WE NEED THIS ORDINANCE. A LAND OWNER  
11 APPROACHED ME AND SAID, "WE WANT TO SELL OUR PROPERTY, IT'S  
12 ABOUT 200 ACRES IN THE APRIL ROAD AREA OF THE UNINCORPORATED  
13 PORTION OF THE NORTH AREA." AND I SAID, "I WANT TO GO OUT AND  
14 LOOK AT IT." I LOOKED AT IT. AND I SAID, "WELL, YOU KNOW, I  
15 THINK YOU COULD PROBABLY PUT SOME HOMES HERE, NESTLED HERE AND  
16 THERE AND I DON'T REALLY THINK WE NEED TO ACQUIRE ALL THIS  
17 LAND ON ORDER TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES." AND THAT LANDOWNER  
18 LOOKED ME IN THE EYE AND HE SAID, "THERE ARE ABOUT 200 ACRES.  
19 THERE ARE 14 LEGAL LOTS HERE. I CAN GRADE WITHOUT ANYBODY'S  
20 APPROVAL, OVER THE COUNTER, ALMOST A MILLION AND A HALF CUBIC  
21 YARDS. I CAN LEVEL THIS AREA. SO THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO BUY  
22 THIS, MR. EDMUNDSTON." AND I TURNED, GOT ON MY CELL PHONE, AND  
23 I THINK I TALKED TO LAURA OR MAYBE JENNY AND SAID, "COULD THIS  
24 POSSIBLY BE TRUE?" "WELL, HOW MANY LOTS DO THEY HAVE?" I SAID,



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1 "14." "YEAH, YOU CAN GET A HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS OVER  
2 THE COUNTER." HE WAS RIGHT.

3

4 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** PER LOT.

5

6 **JOSEPH EDMUNDSTON:** PER LOT, OKAY? SO THE TOTAL AREA THERE  
7 WOULD HAVE BEEN ALMOST A MILLION AND A HALF CUBIC YARDS. WE  
8 ENDED UP BUYING THAT PROPERTY. I'M HAPPY WE DID. NATIONAL PARK  
9 SERVICE SHOWS THAT THE MOUNTAIN LIONS, YOU KNOW, ARE USING  
10 THAT AREA. I'M HAPPY WE DID. IT WAS A GOOD ACQUISITION BUT  
11 THAT'S THE KIND OF DEGRADATION TO OUR SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
12 THAT TODAY CAN HAPPEN AS A MATTER OF RIGHT. THAT'S WHY THIS  
13 ORDINANCE HAS TO BE ADOPTED. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE. [ GAVEL ]

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** RUTH GERSON. NANCY KERJEWITT.

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** YOU HAVE LAURA...

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I KNOW, BUT I'M DOING THREE AT A TIME,  
22 OKAY? AND ALBERT ROLLINS.

23

24 **LOUISE RISHOFF:** I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO THE CHAIR FOR THE  
25 CONFUSION WHEN I WAS CALLED. I'M LOUISE RISHOFF...



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OH, OKAY. YOU ARE LOUISE. ALL RIGHT. GO  
3 AHEAD. OKAY.

4

5 **LOUISE RISHOFF:** ...I'VE BEEN OFF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR ABOUT A  
6 YEAR AND SO I...

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NO, I HAD YOU DOWN HERE AS REPRESENTATIVE  
9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER. I JUST CALLED YOU. OKAY. GO AHEAD.

10

11 **LOUISE RISHOFF:** ALL RIGHT. WELL, I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISRUPT THE  
12 PROCESS. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. I  
13 AM HERE REPRESENTING THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER. THE PLANNING AREA  
14 THAT'S UNDER CONSIDERATION TODAY LIES ENTIRELY WITHIN THE 41ST  
15 ASSEMBLY DISTRICT. ASSEMBLY MEMBER PAVLEY BELIEVES THAT THE  
16 ADOPTION OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN IS ONE OF THE MOST VISIONARY  
17 THINGS THAT THIS BOARD HAS DONE WITH RESPECT TO PROTECTING  
18 THIS ENORMOUS RESOURCE WITHIN THE COUNTY AND WITHIN HER  
19 DISTRICT. THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INFUSION OF TAXPAYER  
20 DOLLARS TO PROTECT THE RESOURCES WITHIN THE SANTA MONICAS,  
21 MUCH OF THAT VOTER PASSED BONDS, PROP 12, 13, 40, 50. THE  
22 VOTERS HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR IN THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF WHAT THEY  
23 WANT WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A VERY  
24 WELL-DRAFTED CAREFUL, REASONABLE ORDINANCE. IT IS ENTIRELY  
25 CONSISTENT WITH WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE 41ST DISTRICT HAVE



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1 EXPRESSED TO THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER AND SHE WANTED ME TO  
2 COMPLIMENT STAFF FOR DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB IN DRAFTING IT AND  
3 RESPECTFULLY ENCOURAGE YOUR ADOPTION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. LET'S SEE. I HAVE RUTH. IS  
6 NANCY STILL HERE? OKAY. AND YOU'RE ALBERT?

7

8 **ALBERT ROLLINS:** HELLO. YES.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AND THEN I'D ASK MARTIN ZUNKELER. IS MARTIN  
11 HERE? I BELIEVE IT'S ANNIE REYNAUD. YOU'RE MARTIN? ARE YOU  
12 MARTIN?

13

14 **MARTIN ZUNKELER:** YES.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. COME ON UP, PLEASE. ALL RIGHT. GO  
17 AHEAD.

18

19 **ALBERT ROLLINS:** GOOD MORNING. I'M ALBERT ROLLINS. I'VE BEEN IN  
20 TOPANGA FOR OVER 50 YEARS. I AM A BUILDER AND I OPPOSE THIS  
21 ORDINANCE. IT'S GOING TO REQUIRE EVERY HOUSE TO HAVE A GRADING  
22 PERMIT TO BUILD. AT THE MOMENT, YOU DON'T NEED A GRADING  
23 PERMIT TO PUT A HOUSE ON A PIECE OF PROPERTY. YOU WOULD NEED A  
24 GRADING PERMIT TO ACCESS IT THROUGH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. AND I  
25 THINK IT'S GOING TO DOWN SOME OF THE PROPERTY VALUES UP THERE.



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1 I THINK, I MEAN, IF YOU WERE IN A FIRE, WHERE WOULD YOU RATHER  
2 BE? ON THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN OR ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN?

3

4 **FEMALE VOICE:** SIDE.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THE QUESTION WAS DIRECTED THIS WAY. THANK  
7 YOU, THOUGH, FOR YOUR COMMENT OUT THERE. YES?

8

9 **ALBERT ROLLINS:** THAT'S IT.

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

12

13 **RUTH GERSON:** GOOD MORNING, SUPERVISORS. MY NAME IS RUTH  
14 GERSON. I AM PRESIDENT OF THE RECREATION AND EQUESTRIAN  
15 COALITION. SEEMS LIKE FOUR YEARS AGO WE WERE DOING THIS SAME  
16 THING. HORSES PREFER LEVEL GROUND. YES, THEY GO ON HILLSIDES  
17 BUT THEY PREFER IT LEVEL. AND WHILE YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GRADE  
18 NEAR A MAJOR STREET, THE AREA IN THE MOUNTAINS REQUIRES THAT  
19 HORSES BE ON SOME HILLSIDES AND, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT  
20 REASONABLY LEVEL FOR THEM, YOU NEED TO GRADE. NONE OF THE  
21 CITIES OR AGENCIES, NATIONAL PARK, STATE PARK, CONSERVANCY AND  
22 ANY OF THE CITIES MENTIONED PROVIDE ANY EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES  
23 AS PART OF THE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. SO IF ONLY HOUSES CAN  
24 BE BUILT WITHOUT REASONABLE EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES, THIS WILL  
25 BECOME THE NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL AREA. I URGE THE ORDINANCE BE



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1 AMENDED TO EXCLUDE THE EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES, TO EXCLUDE THE  
2 15,000 SQUARE FOOT AREA. I HAVE A SMALL ARENA, 80 BY 200. THAT  
3 DOES NOT COUNT THE HAY BARN, THAT DOES NOT COUNT THE CORRALES  
4 NOR THE TACK ROOM NOR THE AREA TO WALK AROUND IN BETWEEN, NOR  
5 THE DRIVEWAY NOR THE HOUSE. I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT EXCESSIVE.  
6 I AM NOT A COMMERCIAL OPERATOR. THE PEOPLE WHO RIDE WITH ME  
7 HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRAILS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND  
8 I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT CONTINUE. THERE WAS NO INPUT BY  
9 LANDOWNERS WITHIN THE AREA OF THE COUNTY THAT WE'RE TALKING  
10 ABOUT THAT DID NOT ALREADY LIVE IN ONE OF THE CITIES THAT HAD  
11 INPUT. IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEBODY LIKE MYSELF WHO IS NOT IN THE  
12 CITY DID NOT HAVE THE INPUT INTO THE NORTH AREA PLAN WHEN IT  
13 BEGAN, NOR INTO THESE CHANGES THAT ARE BEING PROPOSED. THANK  
14 YOU VERY MUCH. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR HORSES, I'D  
15 BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OF THEM.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. THANK YOU, RUTH.

18

19 **MARTIN ZUNKELER:** HI, MR. CHAIRMAN, HONORABLE MEMBERS, THANK  
20 YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME TIME TO SPEAK TO YOU. I'M A YOUNG  
21 ARCHITECT, ACTUALLY AND STARTED AN OFFICE, LIKE, TWO YEARS  
22 AGO. MOST OF MY CLIENTS ARE WORKING, ACTUALLY HAVE PROPERTIES  
23 IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. MOST OF THE LOTS ARE ABOUT 200  
24 OR A HUNDRED TO 200 ACRES AND WE ARE TRYING HARD TO FIND FLAT  
25 SPOTS ON THAT AREA. ACTUALLY, IT'S MOSTLY IMPOSSIBLE. THAT'S





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1 PROBABLY WHY IT'S CALLED MOUNTAINS. THE FLATTEST PART ARE  
2 BASICALLY ON THE RIDGELINE AND IF YOU WANT TO BUILD BENEATH OR  
3 BELOW THE RIDGELINE, IT PRODUCES MUCH MORE GRADING OR IT GETS  
4 MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS. I THINK IT'S REALLY  
5 HARD TO FULFILL ALL THE GRADING-- NEW GRADING REGULATIONS,  
6 EVEN IF WE TRIED OUR BEST IN WORKING WITH SPECIAL ENGINEERING  
7 DEVICES LIKE SPLIT LEVELS OR WHATEVER. WE STILL WOULD GO OVER  
8 THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS GRADING. I WOULD ACTUALLY-- I MEAN, I  
9 TOTALLY HEAR THE ORDINANCE, LIKE SAVING THE RIDGELINES FROM  
10 BIG HOUSES, BIG HOMES AND ALSO SAVING THE SKYLINE BUT I WOULD  
11 PLEAD MORE FOR MORE SENSIBLE, MORE-- MAYBE CASE-TO-CASE METHOD  
12 OF TRYING TO GET MORE SENSITIVE AND BETTER HOUSES BUILT. THANK  
13 YOU VERY MUCH.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. NEXT ON THE FAVOR  
16 SIDE, LAURA PLOTKIN, TOM BARTLETT AND HERBERT PETERMAN.

17

18 **LAURA PLOTKIN:** SHOULD I JUST BEGIN? MY NAME IS LAURA PLOTKIN.  
19 I'M DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR STATE SENATOR SHEILA KUEHL, WHO  
20 REPRESENTS THE 23RD STATE SENATE DISTRICT, WHICH IS HOME TO  
21 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. BOTH SENATOR KUEHL AND ASSEMBLY  
22 MEMBER PAVLEY WROTE A JOINT LETTER TO EACH OF THE SUPERVISORS,  
23 WHICH I'M ASSUMING YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED, SO I WON'T GO INTO  
24 TOO MUCH DETAIL, BUT JUST WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COUPLE OF  
25 POINTS. VOTERS PASSED, BOTH ON THE STATE LEVEL AND ON THE



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1 COUNTY LEVEL, PARK BONDS AND WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS IN MANY PARK  
2 AND TRAIL ACQUISITIONS. BOTH THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER AND THE  
3 SENATOR APPROVE OF THE EQUESTRIAN USES IN THE SANTA MONICA  
4 MOUNTAINS AND SUPPORT PARKS AND TRAILS FOR EQUESTRIANS. WE DO,  
5 HOWEVER, VERY STRONGLY SUPPORT THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE BECAUSE  
6 WE THINK IT WILL PROTECT THIS INVESTMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE OF  
7 PUBLIC FUNDS IN OUR PARKS AND TRAILS AND WE THINK THAT IT JUST  
8 ADDS A LAYER OF PROTECTION FOR THE RIDGELINES AND VERY  
9 STRONGLY SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE STAFF AND WOULD VERY MUCH  
10 LIKE THE SUPPORT OF THE SUPERVISORS. THANK YOU.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. YES, SIR.

13

14 **HERBERT PETERMAN:** I'M HERBERT PETERMAN, AND I RESIDE AT 3185  
15 ROSSINI PLACE IN TOPANGA. AS CHAIR, I'M SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF  
16 A HOMEOWNERS GROUP KNOWN AS VIEW RIDGE OWNERS INVOLVED IN THE  
17 COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR VOICE. WE HAVE A MEMBERSHIP OF  
18 ABOUT 50 HOUSEHOLDS AND ALL OUR MEMBERS LIVE IN THE SANTA  
19 MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA PLAN. COMMUNITY STANDARD DISTRICT  
20 WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS ORDINANCE. WE STRONGLY ENDORSE THIS  
21 PROPOSED GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. THE BASIC PROVISIONS  
22 OF THIS ORDINANCE ARE ALREADY LAW AND COUNTY POLICY SINCE THEY  
23 ARE PART OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN. AS SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
24 CORRECTLY POINTS OUT, THE AVERAGE GRADING PER PROJECT IN THE  
25 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS WAS A LITTLE OVER 4,000 CUBIC YARDS FOR



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1 43 GRADING PERMITS THAT WERE ISSUED FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES  
2 FROM 2001 TO 2003. THE OPPONENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE MAKE YOU  
3 BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTY IS CONFISCATING PRIVATE PROPERTY AND  
4 REDUCING PROPERTY VALUES. IF THIS ORDINANCE CREATES A HARDSHIP  
5 FOR PARTICULAR PROPERTY OWNERS AND THE PLANS EXCEED THE 5,000  
6 CUBIC YARD GRADING LIMIT AND 15,000 SQUARE FOOT GRADED AREA,  
7 THEY CAN STILL APPLY FOR A C.U.P. TO GET AN EXEMPTION. IT IS  
8 VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE FOOTPRINT FOR BUILDING NEW STRUCTURES  
9 AND DRIVEWAYS BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM IN OUR FRAGILE MOUNTAIN  
10 ENVIRONMENT. KEEPING THE GRADING TO A MINIMUM REDUCES EROSION  
11 AND SILTATION. IT ALSO PRESERVES MORE OF THE NATIVE BIOTA AND  
12 ANIMAL HABITAT. THIS ORDINANCE ALSO REQUIRES THAT HOUSES BE  
13 BUILT AT LEAST 50 FEET BELOW RIDGELINES. I THINK THAT IS A  
14 GREAT AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENT. HOUSES ON RIDGELINES LOOK LIKE  
15 PIMPLES IN THE LANDSCAPE. DO WE REALLY WANT TO LOOK AT ROOF  
16 LINES AND LARGE STUCCO BUILDINGS INSTEAD OF UNSPOILED MOUNTAIN  
17 RIDGES? I COULD LIST A NUMBER OF HOUSING TRACTS IN TOPANGA AND  
18 THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS WHERE WHOLE HILLSIDES WERE FLATTENED  
19 TO BUILD HOMES ON SMALL LOTS AND ON TOP OF RIDGELINES. WE  
20 THINK THOSE TYPE OF DEVELOPMENTS ARE TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER  
21 WITH OUR MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT. WE URGE THE SUPERVISORS TO  
22 APPROVE THIS PLAN. YOUR PLANNING COMMISSION HAS VOTED 4-TO-1  
23 IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THIS ORDINANCE. WE AGREE WITH THE LATEST  
24 PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT THAT SAYS THE ORDINANCE BENEFITS  
25 WOULD BE MANY.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.  
3 THANK YOU. ALAN FINE. AFTER ALAN IS FINISHED, THEN ON THE  
4 OTHER SIDE WOULD BE ANNIE REYNAUD, JOSH MACKAY AND ALLISON VON  
5 BELTZ. OKAY. MR. FINE.

6

7 **ALAN FINE:** I'M ALAN FINE, A MEMBER OF MY BENEDICT CANYON  
8 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND THE BELLAIRE BEVERLY CREST  
9 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL. I'VE LIVED IN LOS ANGELES FOR NEARLY 50  
10 YEARS AND IN THE HILLSIDES FOR CLOSE TO 40 YEARS AND I'VE SEEN  
11 THE RIDGELINES TRASHED, OUR WONDERFUL HERITAGE. LAST YEAR,  
12 ACROSS THE STREET FROM ME, IS A BEAUTIFUL WOODED HILL THAT WAS  
13 BULLDOZED AWAY AND NOW THERE'S A BIG MANSION THERE, WHICH I  
14 BELIEVE IS A SPEC MANSION, AND A LOT OF THESE BUILDINGS GOING  
15 INTO THE RIDGELINES ARE PURELY FOR DEVELOPER'S PROFITS. SOME  
16 OF THEM ARE ABANDONED. OUR COMMUNITY AND THE RESIDENTS ARE ALL  
17 FOR THIS ORDINANCE AND, ON A PERSONAL NOTE, IF YOU'VE GOT TO  
18 MULHOLLAND DRIVE, YOU'LL SEE THE BARBARA FINE OVERLOOK,  
19 DEDICATED TO MY LATE WIFE, WHO DEVOTED HER LIFE TO PRESERVING  
20 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND DID A LOT OF GOOD. I HATE FOR  
21 THIS LEGACY TO BE TRASHED AND, REMEMBER, ONCE THE RIDGELINE IS  
22 REMOVED, IT CAN'T BE PUT BACK. AND GOD DOESN'T BUILD MOUNTAINS  
23 ANY MORE. THANK YOU.

24



**The Meeting Transcript of  
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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. JOSS MACKAY, ANNIE REYNAUD  
2    AND I THINK IT'S ALLISON VON BELTZ. ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD.

3

4    **ANNIE REYNAUD:** GOOD AFTERNOON, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. ANNIE  
5    REYNAUD IN OPPOSITION FOR THE GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE.  
6    I'D LIKE TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE RIDGELINE PORTION OF  
7    THIS ORDINANCE AND WHY I THINK SOME OF YOU FOLKS HAVE BEEN  
8    GROSSLY MISLED AS TO THE BENEFITS OF THE RIDGELINE PORTION OF  
9    THE ORDINANCE AS OPPOSED TO THE GROSS NEGATIVE BIOLOGICAL  
10   IMPACTS. IF YOU HAVE A RIDGELINE PARCEL DESIGNATED AND,  
11   ACCORDING TO THE ORDINANCE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO GO 50  
12   HORIZONTAL FEET AND 50 VERTICAL FEET DOWN TO COMMENCE YOUR  
13   BUILDING, WHAT WE ARE RECREATING, IN ESSENCE, IS COLD WATER  
14   CANNON. WE ARE RECREATING HOUSES ON STILTS OR HOUSES ON  
15   CAISSONS. MR. HOFFMAN'S COMMENTS THAT BIOLOGICAL UPSET WOULD  
16   NOT EXIST COULD NOT BE MORE OPPOSITE. THE BIOLOGICAL UPSET OF  
17   DRILLING DEEPENED CAISSONS, DEEPENED FRICTION PILES INTO THE  
18   FACE OF THESE SLOPES THAT THESE HOMES IN RIDGELINE PARCELS  
19   WOULD BE FORCED TO DO AS OPPOSED TO BEING ABLE TO BE  
20   CONSTRUCTED ON WHATEVER PAD PORTION OF THE RIDGELINE EXISTS.  
21   NUMBER TWO, THE COUNTY CANNOT POSSIBLY PROCESS THE C.U.P.S  
22   THAT ARE PENDING. THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,000 PENDING C.U.P.S  
23   THE COUNTY IS ALREADY GROSSLY UNDERSTAFFED. THESE STATISTICS  
24   HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. NUMBER THREE, THE PERCENTAGE OF AFFECTED  
25   LANDOWNERS IS FAR GREATER THAN 50%. I THINK MR. HOFFMAN SHOULD



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1 GO BACK AND RE-LOOK AT THE INFORMATION AND GET THE RIGHT  
2 INFORMATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. THANK YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. NEXT.

5

6 **ALLISON VON BELTZ:** MY NAME IS ALLISON VAN BELTZ AND I LIVE IN  
7 DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. I AM PLANNING ON BUYING A PARCEL OF LAND  
8 AND BUILDING A SMALL HOME IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. AND,  
9 AS SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, I'M EXTREMELY  
10 CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE COUNTY'S PROPOSED  
11 GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE AND HOW IT AFFECTS-- AND HOW  
12 IT WOULD AFFECT MY EFFORTS. THE OPINION OF INFORMED  
13 INDIVIDUALS I HAVE TALKED TO IS THAT ALL MY EFFORT WILL BE FOR  
14 NOTHING. AS SUPERVISORS REPRESENTING ALL OF US THROUGHOUT THE  
15 COUNTY, SHOULD EACH OF YOU VOTE IN FAVOR AND APPROVE WHAT  
16 APPEARS TO BE A HORRIBLY DESTRUCTIVE ORDINANCE TO THE SANTA  
17 MONICA MOUNTAINS, I, AND I'M SURE ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE, WILL  
18 BE STOPPED FROM BUILDING OUR HOMES UNDER THE PROPOSED  
19 ORDINANCE. I, LIKE MOST OF THE PEOPLE I'VE TALKED TO, ARE SICK  
20 AND TIRED OF MORE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY AND THE FURTHER  
21 REMOVAL OF OUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. I'D LIKE TO ASK SUPERVISOR  
22 YAROSLAVSKY TWO QUESTIONS. ONE, HAVE YOU EVEN LOOKED AT WHAT  
23 WILL HAPPEN TO THE COUNTY TAX REVENUE OR DO YOU EVEN CARE  
24 ABOUT HOW OUR TAXES ARE SPENT? MY SECONDS QUESTION IS, FROM  
25 THE VOLUMES OF LETTERS I UNDERSTAND THE COUNTY RECEIVED, SENT





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1 BY INDIVIDUALS OBJECTING TO THE ORDINANCE, DO YOU EVEN CARE  
2 ABOUT OUR CONCERNS WITH THIS LAND-GRABBING ORDINANCE? I DOUBT  
3 YOU CARE ON EITHER ISSUE AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE FALSE  
4 STATEMENTS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS YOUR STAFF AND YOU HAVE MADE  
5 ON THE ISSUE. INSTEAD OF YOUR WASTING OUR TAX DOLLARS ON THIS  
6 ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE ORDINANCE, YOU SHOULD BE  
7 CONCENTRATING AND USING EVERY EXTRA TAX DOLLAR TO SAVE THE  
8 HEALTHCARE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, ESPECIALLY SUPERVISOR  
9 BURKE'S HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM, WHERE THERE IS A DESPERATE  
10 NEED. AS TO THE PRESENT HEARING, PROPOSED GRADING AND  
11 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE, I ADAMANTLY OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL AND  
12 REQUEST THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RETHINK THE CONSEQUENCES OF  
13 ANY APPROVAL ON THIS MATTER.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WRAP-- THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. PLEASE, PLEASE. [ GAVEL ]

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES, SIR?

20

21 **JOSS MACKAY:** YES. MY NAME IS JOSS MACKAY, I'M AN ARCHITECT AND  
22 PLANNER AND HAVE BEEN PRACTICING IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA FOR  
23 OVER 35 YEARS. WHAT WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THE IMAGE THAT IS  
24 PROJECTED OF CALIFORNIA AS BEING USER UNFRIENDLY IS TO REDUCE  
25 SOME OF THE ONEROUS AND UNREASONABLE AND UNFATHOMABLE LAWS AND



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1 REGULATIONS WHICH OBSTRUCTED PEOPLE'S DESIRES TO BUILD HOMES  
2 FOR THEIR FAMILIES. THIS ORDINANCE, I FEAR, IS JUST ANOTHER  
3 ROADBLOCK FOR ANYONE TRYING TO BUILD A HOME. THE COASTAL  
4 COMMISSION COMPLAINED THAT THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES HAS BEEN  
5 DRAGGING ITS FEET FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS AND THEY  
6 RESENT HAVING TO DO, AS THEY QUOTE, SAY ISSUE PERMITS ON  
7 BEHALF OF THE COUNTY. THIS IS-- FOR ALL OF THE CASES WHICH  
8 WE'VE HAD, WHICH WE PRESENT TO THE COUNTY, IT TAKES A VERY  
9 LONG TIME TO EVEN GET PLOT PLAN APPROVAL. I MEAN, IT'S  
10 OUTRAGEOUS. I'M TAKING ON CASES NOW WHICH ARE TWO YEARS OLD  
11 PLUS. WE NEED TO REDUCE ORDINANCES. WHAT WE HAVE ON THE BOOKS  
12 RIGHT NOW IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE AND WILL SUSTAIN THIS COUNTY.  
13 YOU KNOW, PERHAPS IN ANOTHER 10, 15 YEARS, MAYBE WE NEED TO  
14 RE-LOOK AT THINGS. BUT WHAT WE HAVE RIGHT NOW IS MORE THAN  
15 ADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE WHAT WE HAVE HERE. AND, YOU KNOW, I  
16 HOPE THAT YOU PEOPLE WILL LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN MAKING  
17 CALIFORNIA A LITTLE BIT MORE USER-FRIENDLY. THANK YOU.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. BACK TO THE SUPPORT SIDE, STEVEN  
20 WILLIAMS, AUDRA LINDSEY, AND WOODY SMECK. OKAY. WHOEVER WOULD  
21 LIKE TO GO FIRST, JUST IDENTIFY YOURSELF FOR THE RECORD,  
22 PLEASE. THANK YOU.

23

24 **STEVE WILLIAMS:** HELLO, I'M STEVE WILLIAMS. I'M A BIOLOGIST AT  
25 THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE SANTA MONICA



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1 MOUNTAINS. MY COLLEAGUE, ROSIE DAGGETT, SUBMITTED A LETTER TO  
2 THE BOARD THAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR PACKETS. SHE WASN'T ABLE TO  
3 MAKE IT SO I'D LIKE TO SHARE A FEW POINTS FROM THIS LETTER. I  
4 ALSO SUPPORT THIS. "DEAR SUPERVISORS, THE RESOURCE  
5 CONSERVATION DISTRICT WITH THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS WISHES  
6 TO COMMEND THE COUNTY FOR RECOGNIZING THAT MEETING THE STATED  
7 GOAL OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA PLAN, LET THE  
8 LAND DICTATE THE USE, REQUIRES IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS, BOTH ON  
9 THE SIGHTING OF NEW STRUCTURES ALONG SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES AS  
10 WELL AS SEVERE REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF GRADING PERMITTED  
11 WITHOUT A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. BOTH THE PROPOSED GRADING  
12 AND RIDGELINE PROTECTION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THIS ORDINANCE  
13 SUPPORT THE MANDATES OF NOT ONLY THE S.M.M.N.A.P. BUT ALSO ARE  
14 CONSISTENT WITH PROTECTING THE SIGNIFICANT VISUAL AND  
15 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES THAT MAKE THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS A  
16 UNIQUE DESIGNATED NATIONAL RESOURCE. THEY MOVE FORWARD THE  
17 IMPORTANT ACTIONS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NORTH AREA PLAN IN A  
18 WAY THAT RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO USE THEIR  
19 PROPERTIES BUT ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT, IN ALLOWING THAT USE,  
20 IT'S CRITICAL TO PREVENT ENORMOUS PUBLIC COST BURDENS  
21 RESULTING FROM UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES RELATED TO OFF-SITE  
22 SEDIMENTATION, INCREASED FIRE AND SLOPE FAILURE HAZARDS, COST  
23 OF INSURANCE AND REBUILDING OF HOMES AND STRUCTURES, EXPANDED  
24 FUEL MODIFICATION AND INTRUSIVE VISUAL BLIGHT. IN PARTICULAR,  
25 WE'D LIKE SPECIFICALLY TO SUPPORT THESE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS



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1 PROPOSED: ONE, GRADING LIMIT OF 5,000 CUBIC YARDS. TWO, LIMIT  
2 OF GRADING AND BRUSHING BETWEEN MARCH AND NOVEMBER TO AVOID  
3 SEDIMENTATION ISSUES DURING THE RAINY SEASON. THREE, INCLUSION  
4 OF ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON EXPLORATORY ROADS TO REDUCE  
5 GRADING AND EROSION IMPACTS. FOUR, INCREASED FINES FOR ILLEGAL  
6 GRADING AND REQUIRING RESTORATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FIVE,  
7 REVISION OF PERMIT SEQUENCING SO THAT GRADING IS STARTED ONLY  
8 FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT. SIX, REQUIRED SITING  
9 OF STRUCTURES, AT LEAST 50 VERTICAL AND 50 HORIZONTAL FEET  
10 FROM DESIGNATED RIDGELINES. SEVEN, PROTECTION OF STRUCTURES  
11 FROM WILDFIRE RISK BY REQUIRING PROPER SITING ON RIDGELINES  
12 AND, EIGHT, CLARIFICATION OF THE PROCEDURES, DECISION-MAKING  
13 RESPONSIBILITY AND CRITERIA NEEDED TO TRIGGER A VARIANCE UNDER  
14 SECTION 5-C." THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. AUDRA?

17

18 **AUDRA LINDSEY:** OKAY. HELLO. MY NAME IS AUDRA LINDSEY AND I'M  
19 HERE-- I WORK FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS. I'M HERE TODAY TO  
20 REPRESENT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ANGELES DISTRICT OF  
21 CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND HE IS IN SUPPORT OF THE ORDINANCE.  
22 I'D LIKE TO READ INTO RECORD A LETTER THAT IS DATED OCTOBER  
23 25TH, 2004, SIGNED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RON SCHAFER. "DEAR  
24 HONORABLE SUPERVISORS, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND  
25 RECREATION AND ANGELES DISTRICT SUPPORTS THE GRADING AND



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1 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE THAT ADDS PROVISIONS TO THE SANTA MONICA  
2 MOUNTAINS' NORTH AREA COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT ADDRESSING  
3 GRADING AND RIDGELINE PROTECTION. THE NEW ORDINANCE  
4 ESTABLISHES A NEW THRESHOLD FOR DISCRETIONARY REVIEW OF  
5 GRADING PROJECTS. THE ORDINANCE IDENTIFIES SIGNIFICANT  
6 RIDGELINES THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING AREA AND ESTABLISHES  
7 PROTECTION PROVISIONS FOR THESE RIDGELINES. WE WOULD ALSO  
8 SUPPORT ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON EXPLORATORY ROADS USED FOR  
9 ACCESS TO SITES OF GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PERCOLATION  
10 TESTS, AS WELL AS REQUIREMENTS THAT SUCH ROADS BE RESTORED TO  
11 THE NATURAL CONDITIONS IF THEY ARE NOT TO BECOME A PART OF THE  
12 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT. THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
13 ORDINANCE ARE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR DEPARTMENT'S MISSION TO  
14 PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL  
15 RESOURCES. THE PROTECTION OF THESE RESOURCES ON STATE PARKLAND  
16 CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT COOPERATIVE PLANNING WITH LOCAL  
17 JURISDICTIONS GOVERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY  
18 BEYOND PARK BOUNDARIES. EXCESSIVE GRADING DAMAGES NATURAL  
19 RESOURCES BY CAUSING SEDIMENTATION THAT CAN SMOTHER AQUATIC  
20 LIFE. EXTENSIVE LAND FORM ALTERATION CAN LEAD TO HYDROLOGICAL  
21 CHANGES IN STREAMS THAT LEAD TO CUTTING OF STREAM BEDS AND  
22 BANK EROSION. SOIL DISTURBANCES OFTEN LEAD TO THE  
23 ESTABLISHMENT OF INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES THAT SPREAD  
24 ONTO ADJACENT NATURAL AREAS. THE RIDGELINE PROTECTION  
25 PROVISIONS WILL HELP PRESERVE THE SCENIC RESOURCES THAT GIVE



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1 RELIEF FROM THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SOUGHT BY VISITORS  
2 TO THE STATE PARKS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. PROTECTED  
3 RIDGELINES CAN ALSO PROVIDE HABITAT LINKAGES FOR WILDLIFE  
4 TRAVEL BETWEEN WATERSHEDS OR CORE HABITAT AREAS. THANK YOU FOR  
5 THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THIS ORDINANCE. WE FEEL THIS  
6 WILL HELP TO PROTECT THE NATURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF THE  
7 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS."

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU CAN WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

10

11 **AUDRA LINDSEY:** "SINCERELY, RON P. SCHAFFER, DISTRICT  
12 SUPERINTENDENT."

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

15

16 **WOODY SMECK:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS WOODY SMECK. I AM THE  
17 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SANTA MONICA NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
18 WHICH IS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM AND THE ONLY  
19 NATIONAL PARK UNIT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. IN CREATING THE  
20 NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IN 1978, UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOUND  
21 UNSPOILED SCENERY AND NATURE WORTHY OF PRESERVATION FOR  
22 GENERATIONS OF ANGELINOS AND AMERICANS TO ENJOY. IT ALSO  
23 UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN  
24 PROMOTING THESE VALUES BY PREVENTING ADVERSE LAND USES. LOS  
25 ANGELES COUNTIES PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN PRESERVING THE





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1 BEAUTY OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. THE NORTH AREA PLAN  
2 ARTICULATES A FRAMEWORK AND A VISION BY WHICH LOCAL  
3 GOVERNMENTS, PARK AGENCIES AND COMMUNITIES CAN COORDINATE  
4 PLANNING EFFORTS TO ENSURE FUTURE GROWTH DOES NOT DESPOIL  
5 SCENIC MOUNTAIN RIDGELINES AND LONG RANGE VISTAS. THE  
6 STANDARDS BEFORE YOU IMPLEMENT THIS VISION AND ARE CONSISTENT  
7 WITH THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO PRESERVE THE  
8 BEAUTY OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY,  
9 IT SIGNALS THE COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE PLACES OF  
10 NATURAL BEAUTY AND SOLACE FOR ITS CITIZENS TO ENJOY. FINALLY,  
11 MR. CHAIRMAN, I'VE HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY  
12 OWNERS ABOUT CONCERNS THAT THE STANDARDS WILL PREVENT  
13 TRADITIONAL EQUESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MOUNTAINS, SUCH AS  
14 PADDOCKS AND STABLES. BASED ON STAFF DISCUSSION THIS MORNING  
15 AND THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE, IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS WON'T BE  
16 THE CASE. HOWEVER, I'M HOPEFUL THAT STANDARDS CAN MOVE FORWARD  
17 THAT ACCOMMODATE COMPATIBLE EQUESTRIAN USES WITHOUT IMPACTING  
18 RIDGELINE SCENERY AND LONG RANGE VISTAS. THANK YOU FOR  
19 CONSIDERING THESE COMMENTS.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. NEXT ON THE OPPOSING SIDE,  
22 I BELIEVE IT'S RICHARD ENCENT I BELIEVE. WILLIAM AND MARGE  
23 MACLAUGHLIN AND ROSE PARRA. THEY'RE HERE? MA'AM, YOU ARE?

24

25 **MARGE MACLAUGHLIN:** I'M MARGE MACLAUGHLIN.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY, MARGE. ROSE OR RICHARD HERE? ROSE.  
3 RICHARD, YOU'RE HERE? OKAY. ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD. THANK YOU.

4

5 **MARGE MACLAUGHLIN:** HI. I'M MARGE MACLAUGHLIN, I'M REPRESENTING  
6 MY HUSBAND, WILLIAM A. MACLAUGHLIN, AND WE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE  
7 THIS ORDINANCE AS IT IS WRITTEN. WE'VE LIVED IN LOBO CANYON  
8 FOR 27 YEARS AND WE'RE NOT DEVELOPERS. I'VE ATTENDED EVERY  
9 MEETING OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN AND, IN THOSE MEETINGS, WE WERE  
10 ASSURED THAT EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE GRANDFATHERED INTO  
11 SUBSEQUENT ORDINANCES. WE FEEL BETRAYED AND LIED TO AS THE  
12 ORDINANCE SPECIFICALLY OMITTS THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE. OUR  
13 PROPERTY IS ZONED AGRICULTURAL AND THIS ORDINANCE WILL ROB US  
14 OF BEING ABLE TO DO ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR CHANGES TO OUR HORSE  
15 FACILITIES OR TO MAKE ADDITIONS TO OUR HOME. THE GRADING  
16 THRESHOLD FOR THIS ORDINANCE BEFORE A C.U.P. IS TRIGGERED IS  
17 OVERLY RESTRICTIVE. IT DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SIZE OF  
18 A PROPERTY, WHETHER IT IS ONE-HALF ACRE FOR 400 ACRES. THE  
19 GRADING IS LIMITED TO 15,000 SQUARE FEET OR 5,000 CUBIC YARDS  
20 OR YOU HAVE TO GET A C.U.P. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ARENAS,  
21 BARNs, DRIVEWAY, CORRALES, GARDENS. THESE ARE PERMITTED USES  
22 IN AN AGRICULTURAL ZONE. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE  
23 EXPENSE OF OBTAINING A C.U.P. FOR A PERMITTED IMPROVEMENT TO  
24 OUR PROPERTY. THE C.U.P. PROCESS IS ARBITRARY AND EXPENSIVE IN  
25 BOTH DOLLARS AND TIME. IF THIS ORDINANCE PROCEEDS AS WRITTEN,



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1 IT WILL DECREASE THE VALUE OF ALL RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL  
2 PROPERTY IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. I URGE YOU TO REWRITE  
3 THIS PORTION OF THE ORDINANCE. THANK YOU.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

6

7 **RICHARD HERSH:** MY NAME IS RICHARD HERSH, I LIVE AT 28944 MEDIA  
8 MESA ROAD IN AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA. I'M A PROPERTY OWNER IN  
9 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND I'M NOT A DEVELOPER AND I'VE  
10 HAD FOUR PARCELS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FOR THE LAST 15  
11 YEARS WITH THE DREAM THAT I WOULD HAVE A SINGLE-FAMILY  
12 RESIDENCE FOR MYSELF AND I WOULD ALSO HAVE A HOME FOR MY  
13 PARENTS AND A HOME FOR MY CHILDREN. I'M ENCOURAGED WITH  
14 COUNCILMAN ANTONOVICH'S RECOMMENDATIONS. WHAT IT REPRESENTS TO  
15 ME IS IT REPRESENTS ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE LOOKED AT VERY  
16 CAREFULLY BEFORE AN ORDINANCE OF THIS MAGNITUDE GETS PASSED BY  
17 ALL OF YOU VERY DISTINGUISHED CITY COUNCIL PEOPLE. IN MY  
18 PARTICULAR SITUATION, I HAVE FOUR INDIVIDUAL PARCELS WHERE,  
19 ACTUALLY, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I COULD PUT MY HOME REQUIRES  
20 TWO FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNAROUNDS, WHICH ADDITIONALLY IMPACTS  
21 THE RESTRICTION OF THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS. I WOULD, IN CLOSING-  
22 - I'M JUST EXHAUSTED FROM, REALLY, THE WHOLE PROCESS. I'VE  
23 BEEN GOING THROUGH THIS FOR YEARS NOW AND THE C.U.P. PROCESS  
24 IS NOT EASY AND IT'S VERY, VERY COSTLY AND I WOULD JUST ALSO  
25 ADD TO MR. ANTONOVICH'S SUGGESTIONS TO CONSIDER THE PEOPLE



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1 THAT OWN THE LAND AND THE LANDOWNERS UP THERE, BECAUSE I  
2 BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL SEVERELY IMPACT THE VALUE OF LAND IN  
3 THAT AREA THAT, IN A LOT OF CASES, ARE OUR LIFE SAVINGS. THANK  
4 YOU.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** EXCUSE ME, SIR. ARE YOU IN THE PROCESS  
7 RIGHT NOW OF A C.U.P.? DID YOU SAY YOU'RE IN THE PROCESS OF A  
8 C.U.P. RIGHT NOW?

9

10 **RICHARD HERSH:** YES, I'VE GONE THROUGH A C.-- I'VE GONE THROUGH  
11 A C.U.P. AND THE C.U.P. PROCESS TOOK ME ABOUT, I WOULD SAY, 2-  
12 1/2 YEARS.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

15

16 **ROSE PARRA:** MY NAME IS ROSE PARRA AND MY PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS  
17 3052 TRIUMPHAL CANYON ROAD, AGORA, CALIFORNIA. I'VE SPOKEN--  
18 I'VE READ THIS TO YOU BEFORE AND I REALLY FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO  
19 READ IT AGAIN BECAUSE I REALLY DIDN'T GET ANY KIND OF RESPONSE  
20 THE LAST TIME AND I AM A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER FOR  
21 DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND I HAVE OWNED PROPERTY IN TRIUMPHAL  
22 CANYON AND AGOURA SINCE 1976. SINCE IT WAS BUILT IN THE '20S,  
23 IT WAS VERY SMALL AND OUR PLAN WAS TO MAKE IT BIGGER FOR A  
24 FAMILY THAT WAS PLANNED. WE ALSO PLANNED ON BUILDING A BARN, A  
25 GUEST HOUSE AND A SWIMMING POOL, OUR DREAM. AND ONE OF THE



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1 MOST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE WAS THE FIRE OF 1978. I  
2 LOST EVERYTHING. MY HUSBAND AND I HAD TO RELOCATE TEMPORARILY  
3 TO NEW YORK DURING THIS TRYING TIME. BECAUSE OF THE FIRE, MY  
4 HUSBAND PLACED A COUNTY-APPROVED MOBILE HOME ON THE PROPERTY.  
5 IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO REBUILD THE HOME THAT I LOST IN  
6 THAT FIRE. SECTION 2-A OF THE DRAFT OF THE NEW ORDINANCE  
7 DISCUSSES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED LEGALLY ESTABLISHED RESIDENCES  
8 IN DESIGNATED SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE PROPERTIES. BUT MY  
9 PROPERTY IS NOT CONSIDERED DESIGNATED RIDGELINE PROPERTY BUT  
10 IT IS STILL A PART OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN AND I WOULDN'T  
11 INTERFERE WITH ANY OF THE RIDGELINES. I'M NOT CLOSE TO THE  
12 RIDGELINES BUT I'M STILL GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM TO BUILD MY  
13 HOUSE IF I CAN ONLY USE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING FACILITY.  
14 SO I'M VERY CONFUSED. WOULD I HAVE TO OBTAIN A C.U.P. PERMIT  
15 AT THE COST OF 20,000 TO 40,000 DOLLARS IN ORDER TO REBUILD A  
16 HOME ON THE SAME PAD THAT BURNED DOWN? BECAUSE THE HOUSE WAS  
17 VERY SMALL, IT'S GOING TO NEED MORE THAN 25%. IT WAS A REALLY  
18 SMALL, SMALL HOUSE. AND IS THE LAND THAT WAS ALREADY GRADED  
19 FOR THE BURNED-DOWN HOUSE CONSIDERED PART OF THAT 5,000?  
20 AGAIN, YOU KNOW, I JUST DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD A C.U.P. AT  
21 \$40,000 TO REBUILD MY HOUSE.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

24



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1   **ROSE PARRA:** OKAY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DISAGREEMENT WITH  
2   GRADING AND I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU IF THERE'S SOME WAY YOU CAN  
3   DIVIDE IT UP BETWEEN TWO ORDINANCES, MAKE IT ONE A RIDGELINE  
4   ORDINANCE AND ONE GRADING ORDINANCE? IS THAT POSSIBLE? BECAUSE  
5   I CAN UNDERSTAND NOT WANTING DEVELOPERS TO GO IN AND CUT THE  
6   RIDGELINES BUT EXISTING OWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN THERE FOR MANY,  
7   MANY YEARS SHOULDN'T HAVE THIS PENALTY PLACED ON THEM.

8

9   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. I THINK IT WOULD BE-- AT  
10   LEAST STAFF RESPOND TO THE ISSUE THAT SHE RAISED ABOUT THE  
11   REBUILD OFF A FIRE, IF YOU COULD DO THAT.

12

13   **RON HOFFMAN, REGIONAL PLANNING:** SHE RAISED SEVERAL ISSUES, ONE  
14   OF WHICH RELATED TO THE EXISTING AMOUNT OF GRADING THAT WAS  
15   DONE PREVIOUSLY. AND THAT WOULD NOT BE COUNTED TOWARDS THE  
16   AMOUNT AUTHORIZED BY THIS ORDINANCE. THE WAY THE ORDINANCE IS  
17   CURRENTLY DRAFTED, THE REBUILDING OF A DAMAGED STRUCTURE  
18   RELATES TO THOSE DAMAGED ON A RIDGELINE, DOES NOT RELATE TO A  
19   GRADE-- TO THE GRADING ASPECT OF IT. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT, IF  
20   THE BOARD SHOULD WANT TO DO, TO COME UP WITH A COMPARABLE KIND  
21   OF A RELIEF FOR FOLKS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY GRADING, THE  
22   BOARD CAN-- CERTAINLY I THINK THAT'S WITHIN YOUR PURVIEW TO  
23   DO. THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT, I THINK, HAS BEEN DISCUSSED  
24   BEFORE. BUT THE FACT THAT THE HOUSE WAS BURNED DOWN, SHE  
25   CERTAINLY WOULD BE ABLE TO REBUILD THAT HOUSE AND NOT EXPAND





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1 IT BUT THE HOUSE, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT RULES, SHE COULD  
2 REBUILD WITHOUT-- TO THE SAME EXTENT IT WAS BEFORE WITHOUT  
3 COMPLYING WITH THE NEW RULES.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** CAN I JUST ASK ONE QUESTION, MR. CHAIRMAN,  
8 JUST TO CLARIFY? IF SHE HAS-- IF SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY GRADED  
9 10,000 CUBIC YARDS TO BUILD THE PAD AND NOW SHE WANTED TO  
10 EXPAND-- SHE WANTED TO GRADE ANOTHER 2,000 CUBIC YARDS TO  
11 EXPAND HER HOUSE, WOULD SHE BE ABLE TO DO THAT WITHOUT COMING  
12 UP AGAINST THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT?

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** YES. THAT-- THE-- IT WOULD JUST BE THE NEW  
15 GRADING...

16

17 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SHE COULD GO UP TO 4,999 NEW CUBIC YARDS OF  
18 GRADING, IS THAT CORRECT?

19

20 **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND IF THE 15,000 SQUARE FOOT PAD LIMITATION  
23 WERE IN THERE, SHE COULD GO ANOTHER 14,999?

24

25 **RON HOFFMAN:** YES.



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND SHE COULD BUILD WHOEVER THE ZONING-- SHE  
3 COULD REBUILD THE HOUSE AS IS OR EXPAND IT AS LONG AS IT MET  
4 THE TERMS OF THE GRADING AND THE PAD?

5

6 **RON HOFFMAN:** RIGHT.

7

8 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THANK YOU.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. GOING BACK TO THE SUPPORT SIDE, DAVID  
11 BROWN, KATHLEEN NAVA AND COLLEEN HOLMES.

12

13 **DAVID BROWN:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE AN ITEM I'D LIKE TO HAVE  
14 PASSED OUT TO THE BOARD IF-- TO SAVE TIME. THANK YOU. DAVID  
15 BROWN. I AM SPEAKING AS AN INDIVIDUAL FOR MY HOMEOWNERS  
16 ASSOCIATION THAT I HAVE BEEN ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE  
17 CITY OF CALABASAS FOR 12 YEARS. WE ROUTINELY REQUIRE  
18 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ANY HOUSE IN ANY OF OUR SENIOR  
19 CORRIDORS AND OUR SCENIC CORRIDORS TAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE  
20 CITY. SO, AT OUR MEETINGS, WE ROUTINELY HAVE ONE OR TWO HOMES  
21 BEFORE US, SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES. WE HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED THE  
22 KIND OF RESISTANCE THAT YOU'RE ENCOUNTERING TO THIS ORDINANCE.  
23 I'M SURE PEOPLE AREN'T PERFECTLY HAPPY ABOUT THIS, IT'S LIKE  
24 C.C.N.R.S AND THINGS LIKE THAT BUT WE DON'T HAVE PEOPLE GET UP  
25 AT OUR MEETINGS AND TELL US THAT THIS IS A BAD THING. WE



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1 ROUTINELY APPROVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS. WE OFTEN ATTACH  
2 MAYBE A LITTLE FINE TUNING, ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS IF WE NEED  
3 TO, BUT IT'S NOT A BIG PROBLEM AND I THINK THE OTHER SIDE IS  
4 EXAGGERATING THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM. OKAY. BY THE WAY, I  
5 HAD TWO CITIZENS OFFERED TO GIVE ME THEIR TIME. IS THAT  
6 PERMITTED? IT'S NOT...

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, I MEAN, IT'S UP TO YOU. GIVE ME THE  
9 NAMES AND WE'LL...

10

11 **DAVID BROWN:** YOU WANT THE NAMES? OKAY. THESE ARE TWO PEOPLE  
12 THAT TURNED IN CARDS. LYNN BENJAMIN AND MADELEINE KR PAN. IF I  
13 MAY PROCEED?

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

16

17 **DAVID BROWN:** THE-- I E-MAILED OR FAXED EXTENSIVE COMMENTS TO  
18 YOUR STAFF. I WON'T GO OVER THOSE IN DETAIL BUT SOME IMPORTANT  
19 DATA THAT WAS INCLUDED WITH THOSE, AND ONE THING, SUPERVISOR  
20 ANTONOVICH, WE TALK ABOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS, THE RIGHTS OF THOSE  
21 WHO, AT THIS MOMENT, OWN THE PROPERTY AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT  
22 THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO WANT TO BUILD ON IT. REMEMBER THAT, IN  
23 THREE YEARS, IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, SHORTLY AFTER YOU  
24 WERE SORT OF TRANSFERRED OUT OF THAT AREA, WE GAVE YOU DATA  
25 SHOWING THAT, IN THREE YEARS, 1992 TO '95, NOT COUNTING THE



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1 NORTHridge EARTHQUAKE, THERE WERE THREE DECLARED DISASTERS,  
2 THERE WERE FLOOD DISASTERS, ONE DECLARED FIRE DISASTER. TOTAL  
3 OF \$78,662,000 OF FEDERAL TAXPAYER DOLLARS WERE PAID OUT TO  
4 VICTIMS OF THOSE DISASTERS. THAT'S GOT TO BE ON THE TABLE HERE  
5 AS AN ISSUE, BECAUSE THAT'S TAKING MONEY OUT OF MY POCKET.  
6 PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT THE COST OF MONEY TO DO A C.U.P. IT  
7 COSTS ALL OF US MONEY, IT COSTS THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS COUNTY  
8 AND OF THE UNITED STATES \$78 MILLION TO BAIL OUT PEOPLE WHO  
9 BUILT IN INAPPROPRIATE LOCATIONS. YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT SAT  
10 HERE AND TOLD YOU THAT HOUSES ON RIDGELINES ARE IN MUCH  
11 GREATER DANGER OF BEING BURNED IN A FIRE AND THAT HOUSES THAT  
12 ARE BUILT WAY OUT IN THE BOONIES AND BRUSH-COVERED HILLS WITH  
13 LONG ACCESS DRIVEWAYS ARE MUCH MORE DANGER. FIRE DEPARTMENT  
14 CAN'T GET TO THEM AND ALSO PEOPLE DIED UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS  
15 IN THE FIRES LAST YEAR IN SAN DIEGO AND SAN BERNARDINO. SO YOU  
16 REALLY HAVE TO FACTOR THAT INTO THE EQUATION. THIS IS NOT THE  
17 FLAT LAND OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE.  
18 IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TERRAIN. THAT'S WHY MANY OF THESE PEOPLE  
19 ARE COMPLAINING, DIFFICULTY OF DEVELOPING. ANOTHER FACTOR,  
20 ANOTHER PIECE OF INFORMATION I SENT YOU IS A-- YOUR FLOOD  
21 CONTROL PEOPLE KEEP MANUSCRIPT RECORDS FROM A NUMBER OF  
22 STATIONS IN THE COUNTY AND FROM THOSE RECORDS, I'VE EXTRACTED  
23 THE MAJOR STORMS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THREE STATIONS IN  
24 THE NORTH AREA PLAN AREA IN THE LAST 80 YEARS AND THESE  
25 INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, 30.5 INCHES OF RAIN AT MALIBU LAKE IN



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1 EIGHT DAYS IN 1969. THEY INCLUDE 15.68 INCHES IN TOPANGA IN  
2 ONE STORM IN 1934. 14 TO 15 INCHES OF RAIN IN UPPER ZUMA  
3 CANYON AND A STORM IN 1943. YOU NEED SPECIAL CONTROLS ON  
4 GRADING WHEN YOU'RE MAKING PADS AND BUILDING ROADS IN AREAS  
5 LIKE THAT. THE DEBRIS THAT WASHES OFF OF THOSE PADS IN A HEAVY  
6 STORM GOES INTO THE STREAMS, PEOPLE HAVE HOMES NEAR THE  
7 STREAMS THAT GET FLOODED AS A RESULT AND WE PAY FURTHER  
8 DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO THOSE FOLKS. PEOPLE ARE KILLED BY MUD  
9 FLOWS THAT ARE CAUSED BY INAPPROPRIATE GRADING. YOU NEED TO  
10 REALIZE THIS IS NOT AGAIN THE FLATLANDS OF THE BASIN, YOU  
11 DON'T HAVE STORMS OF ONE OR TWO OR THREE INCHES, YOU HAVE  
12 STORMS OF FOUR OR FIVE OR SIX INCHES ON A KIND OF SEMIANNUAL  
13 BASIS. YOU HAVE STORMS LIKE THE ONES I'VE BEEN READING ON A  
14 DECADE BASIS, THAT ANY GRADING THAT THAT'S DONE NEEDS TO BE  
15 LOOKED AT CAREFULLY SO THAT IT CAN WITHSTAND THAT. AND, AGAIN,  
16 IF IT CAN'T WITHSTAND THAT, WE PAY THE BILL. HAVE TO GET THAT  
17 ACROSS, THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE  
18 TO BUY FOR OURSELVES AS TAXPAYERS BECAUSE THE MONEY WAS PAID  
19 OUT TO VICTIMS OF HOMES THAT WERE SITED ON RIDGELINES AND  
20 SITED IN DANGEROUS LOCATIONS, OKAY? NOW, BEYOND THAT, QUICKLY  
21 TO SUM UP, THE-- MY FRIEND, RUTHIE GERSON, RAISED THE POINT  
22 AGAIN THAT THERE WERE NO PEOPLE ON THE COMMITTEES THAT DRAFTED  
23 THE NORTH AREA PLAN. I WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ADVISORY  
24 COMMITTEE THAT PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN DRAFTING THE NORTH AREA  
25 PLAN. WE HAD A NUMBER OF RESIDENTS OF THE UNINCORPORATED



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1 COUNTIES, COUNTY AREAS ON THAT. SIX OF THOSE MEMBERS WERE  
2 APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY. SIX OF THEM WERE APPOINTED BY OUR  
3 WATER DISTRICT, SIX OF THEM APPOINTED BY OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
4 ALL OF WHICH COVERED THE UNINCORPORATED AREA AND OTHERS WERE  
5 APPOINTED BY THE LOCAL CITIES. WE HAD LAND OWNERS, WE HAD  
6 DEVELOPERS, WE HAD ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE ON THAT COMMITTEE. AND,  
7 AS I SAY, I WAS CHOSEN AS CHAIR.

8

9 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY EQUESTRIANS WERE ON THE COMMITTEE?

10

11 **WOODY SMECK:** WE HAD SEVERAL HORSE OWNERS. I'D HAVE TO GO BACK.  
12 LINDA PALMER, YOU KNOW LINDA PALMER. SHE WAS, I BELIEVE, AT  
13 ONE POINT AN APPOINTEE TO A COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEE. SHE  
14 WAS ON IT. YES. WE'VE NEVER HAD QUARRELS WITH HORSE PEOPLE.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

17

18 **WOODY SMECK:** YOU KNOW, WE GET ALONG AND I'M GOING TO RUTHIE  
19 GERSON'S HOUSE, IF I CAN, AFTER OUR PLANNING COMMISSION  
20 MEETING THURSDAY NIGHT FOR THE MEETING OF THE TRAILS COUNCIL.  
21 WE DON'T FIGHT LIKE THIS AT HOME. THIS ISSUE WAS JUST BROUGHT  
22 UP AT YOUR MEETINGS.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ZEV STARTS THE FIGHTS. [ LAUGHTER ]

25





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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

2

3    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** A DIVIDER, NOT A UNITER.

4

5    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO PROVISIONS THAT  
6    WOULD ALLOW EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES FROM BEING MAINTAINED OR...?

7

8    **WOODY SMECK:** IF THEY'RE DESIGNED PROPERLY AND KEEP EROSION TO  
9    A MINIMUM, YES, I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES.

10

11    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. KATHLEEN NAVA AND COLLEEN  
12    HOLMES.

13

14    **KATHLEEN NAVA:** HELLO. MY NAME IS KATHLEEN NAVA, I'M A REALTOR  
15    AND I SUPPORT THIS ORDINANCE AND I RESPECTFULLY ASK FOR YOUR  
16    SUPPORT AS WELL. THANK YOU.

17

18    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU! VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT. THAT  
19    WAS ONE OF THE BEST...

20

21    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** CAN YOU COME BACK AGAIN NEXT WEEK? [  
22    LAUGHTER ]

23

24    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST ARTICULATE  
25    TESTIMONIES TODAY. I APPRECIATE IT. GO RIGHT AHEAD, MA'AM.



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1

2 **COLLEEN HOLMES:** WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, I'M GOING TO SAY THAT I  
3 HAVE JAIME MASSEY CEDED HER TIME TO ME, AS WELL,

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WHO'S THIS NOW?

6

7 **COLLEEN HOLMES:** JAIME MASSEY.

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. JAIME MASSEY. OKAY.

10

11 **COLLEEN HOLMES:** AND I AM COLLEEN HOLMES AND I LIVE IN AGOURA  
12 AND I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CORNELL PRESERVATION  
13 ORGANIZATION AND I AM GOING TO SPEAK WITH MY PERSONAL HAT AND  
14 AS THE PRESIDENT'S HAT. FIRST, WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HAT. ABOUT  
15 FOUR MONTHS AGO, I CALLED AND SEVERAL OTHER OF THE MEMBERS OF  
16 THE CORNELL PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION CALLED SEVERAL  
17 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS AFTER WE HAD GOTTEN OR RECEIVED-- I  
18 KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE HAD RECEIVED ZEV'S MESSAGE KIND OF  
19 PUTTING TO REST, WE FELT IN OUR MIND, FOR SOME OF THE  
20 QUESTIONS THAT WERE SPINNING OUT THERE. AND I WANTED TO JUST  
21 READ INTO RECORD SOME OF THE GROUPS THAT DID SUPPORT THIS  
22 GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. THE AD WAS  
23 SPONSORED AND PAID FOR BY THE AGOURA HILLS CITY COUNCIL. THE  
24 COALITION TO PRESERVE LOSS VIRGINIAS, THE COLD CREEK COMMUNITY  
25 ASSOCIATION, THE LOS VIRGINIAS HOMEOWNERS FEDERATION, THE



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1 MALIBU CANYON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, THE MALIBU LAKE MOUNTAIN  
2 CLUB LIMITED, THE MALIBU LAKESIDE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, THE  
3 MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, THE MOUNTAINS  
4 RESTORATION TRUST, OLD TOPANGA HOMEOWNERS, INC., SAVE OPEN  
5 SPACE, SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND TASC, THE TOPANGA  
6 ASSOCIATION FOR A SCENIC COMMUNITY, THEY ARE ALL IN SUPPORT OF  
7 THIS ORDINANCE. NOW, MY PERSONAL HAT, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.  
8 YOU VOTED TO ALLOW THE NORTH AREA PLAN TO COME INTO BEING.  
9 PLEASE GIVE IT THE PROTECTION THAT IT NOW NEEDS TO HELP  
10 MAINTAIN THE LAST SEMI-WILD OPEN SPACE FOR ALL TO BENEFIT FROM  
11 IT AND GIVE PEOPLE THE SENSE OF QUIETNESS INSIDE THAT THE  
12 HUMAN SPIRIT NEEDS. I CAN SEE MY TIME'S ALMOST OUT. IF HORSE  
13 PEOPLE REALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEE WHAT THESE ISSUES WERE, I  
14 BELIEVE THEY WOULD SUPPORT THIS ORDINANCE, AS I DO. I HAVE TWO  
15 HORSES. OH, I HAVE MORE TIME. ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING TO GO BACK  
16 TO THE TOP. OKAY. DO NOT ALLOW DEVELOPERS AND REALTORS IN  
17 SHEEP'S CLOTHING TO CONTINUE PROMOTING LIES ABOUT LOSING OUR  
18 PROPERTY RIGHTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CITIZENS  
19 THAT HAVE NOT DONE THEIR HOMEWORK TO LOOK INTO THIS ORDINANCE.  
20 THIS ORDINANCE ALLOWS A MORE SOLID PROTECTION PUT INTO PLACE  
21 FOR THE NORTH AREA PLAN. I LIVE WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA  
22 MOUNTAINS AND I OWN TWO HORSES. MY DAUGHTER AND I LOVE THE  
23 PEACE AND SERENITY WE FEEL WHEN WE TAKE OUR RIDES. IT IS  
24 SHAMEFUL WHEN WE SEE RIDGELINES RUINED WITH GRADING AND HUGE  
25 HOMES SCARRING UP THE LAND. THIS ORDINANCE DOES NOT SAY THAT



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1 YOU CAN'T BUILD, IT IS JUST PUTTING A REASONABLE LAYER OF  
2 SCRUTINY THAT SHOULD OCCUR IN THIS MOUNTAINOUS ENVIRONMENT. IT  
3 IS PROTECTION AGAINST LARGER SCALE DEVELOPMENTS THAT DO NOT  
4 BELONG IN THIS DELICATE ECOSYSTEM. IT IS SHAMEFUL TO SEE  
5 GRADING SO OFTEN LEAVING A HILLSIDE SCARRED AND THEN LEFT  
6 UNFINISHED FOR YEARS UNTIL THE NEXT DEVELOPER COMES ALONG.  
7 OBVIOUSLY, THE PROCESS OF GRADING IS FAR TOO EASY TO GET AWAY  
8 WITH ON THE COUNTY LEVEL OR IT WOULDN'T BE DONE SO OFTEN AND  
9 LEFT ABANDONED. IF HORSE PEOPLE REALLY DID TAKE THE TIME TO  
10 SEE WHAT THESE ISSUES WERE, I BELIEVE THEY WOULD SUPPORT THIS  
11 ORDINANCE, AS I DO. IF HORSE PEOPLE REALIZED THAT SOME OF THE  
12 PEOPLE AGAINST THIS ORDINANCE ARE THOSE THAT HAVE RECENTLY  
13 BLOCKED LONG USED TRAILS OFF TO HIKERS AND EQUESTRIANS ALIKE  
14 BY PUTTING UP FENCING, I THINK THE EQUESTRIANS AND HIKERS  
15 WOULD THINK TWICE. THESE GUYS ARE TRYING TO BLACKMAIL OUR  
16 STATE AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BY BUYING LAND CHEAPLY AND  
17 TRYING TO SELL IT AT INFLATED COST BACK TO THE PARK SERVICE.  
18 NOW, WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT THEY WOULD BE AGAINST THIS  
19 ORDINANCE? THESE ARE THE LANDOWNERS WHO DON'T WANT ANY  
20 RESTRICTIONS AND THEY ARE THE ONES THAT ARE TAKING OUR RIGHTS  
21 AWAY AND DEFLATING OUR LAND VALUES, NOT THIS ORDINANCE. IT IS  
22 NOT AGAINST HORSES. IT PROTECTS THE LAND THAT WE ALL LOVE. AS  
23 THE MOTTO IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN STATES, LET THE LAND DICTATE  
24 THE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF ITS USE. THANK YOU.

25



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE, BRIAN  
2    SWEENEY, STANLEY LAMPORT AND PATRICIA ANDERSON.

3

4    **BRIAN SWEENEY:** HI. MY NAME IS BRIAN SWEENEY. MR. CHAIRMAN,  
5    THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK. COUNCIL MEMBERS. THE ONLY  
6    THING I-- I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO I JUST WANT TO TOUCH ON  
7    ONE THING, WHICH IS THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS, WHICH IS NOT REALLY  
8    5,000 CUBIC YARDS EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT, IT'S 2,500 YARDS  
9    OF CUT AND 2,500 YARDS OF FILL. IF ANYBODY LOOKS AT  
10   SUBMISSIONS WITH A REASONABLE LOOK AT IT, YOU KNOW, YOU JUST  
11   LOOK AT IT, 2,500 YARDS OF-- 2,500 CUBIC YARDS OF CUT IS ALL  
12   YOU'RE ALLOWED. YOU CANNOT DO A SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE WITH ANY  
13   KIND OF ACCESS ROAD, DRIVEWAY, HAMMER HEAD TURNAROUND, HOUSE,  
14   POOL, FORGET ABOUT EQUESTRIAN USES, IT JUST WON'T WORK. THE  
15   ONLY WAY YOU CAN DO ANY KIND OF HOUSE, YOU'RE ALLOWED 15,000  
16   SQUARE FEET OF DEVELOPMENT. YOU NEED A FLAT PIECE OF LAND  
17   RIGHT BESIDE YOUR PUBLIC ROAD, WHICH ALMOST NEVER EXISTS IN  
18   THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. WE'RE IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRITORY.  
19   YOU KNOW, YOU SAY LET THE LAND DICTATE. WELL, THE LAND DOESN'T  
20   DICTATE TO HAVE A HOUSE RIGHT BESIDE THE ROAD SO YOU'RE  
21   BUILDING IN A GULLY OR BESIDE OAK TREES OR SOMETHING LIKE  
22   THAT. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A REASONABLE ACCESS ROAD TO GET TO THE  
23   FLAT PIECE OF LAND ON THE PROPERTY, MOST OF THESE PARCELS ARE  
24   20 OR 40 ACRES, THEY CAN'T SUBDIVIDE THEM ANY MORE BELOW 20  
25   ACRES, SO THEY'RE ALWAYS GOING TO STAY AT 20 OR 40 ACRE LOTS.



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1 YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GET TO THE PROPERTY TO GET TO THE FLAT  
2 PIECE OF LAND TO LET THE LAND DICTATE THAT THE HOUSE GOES ON A  
3 FLAT PIECE OF LAND. THE-- I ATTENDED ALL THE PUBLIC HEARINGS  
4 AND MADE COMMENTS AND THE ORDINANCE HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT OR  
5 TAKEN INTO ANY ACCOUNTS OF ANY LANDOWNER OR ANY OPPOSITION  
6 MEMBERS AS IT'S GONE THROUGH THE STAGES. IT'S EXACTLY AS IT'S  
7 BEEN FROM DAY ONE IN OUR AREA AND I WAS STUNNED TO FEEL I  
8 WOULD GO TO ALL THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOT ONE COMMENT GETS  
9 INTO THE CHANGE OR, YOU KNOW, NO CONCESSIONS AT ALL. ALL  
10 RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

11

12 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** HOW MANY ACRES OR SQUARE FEET, CUBIC FEET ARE  
13 YOU TALKING ABOUT?

14

15 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** WELL, I THINK-- ACCESS ROADS-- THE COASTAL  
16 ZONE-- IN THE COASTAL COMMISSION-- THE COASTAL COMMISSION,  
17 VERY HARD BODY, THEY ALLOW A 300-FOOT DRIVEWAY MAXIMUM WITH A  
18 HAMMER HEAD TURN WITH NO RESTRICTIONS. IT HAS TO BE A 20 FOOT  
19 WIDE. THEN YOU'RE ALLOWED A 10,000 SQUARE FOOT PAD FOR A HOUSE  
20 ON THE END. AND THAT'S THE COASTAL COMMISSION, WHICH IS  
21 EXTREMELY ONEROUS. YOU HAVE A 40-ACRE SITE OR A 20-ACRE SITE,  
22 IT'S VERY EASY TO GO THROUGH 300 FEET WITHOUT GETTING  
23 ANYWHERE, REALLY. YOU ALLOW JUST A LITTLE WIGGLE ROOM TO GET  
24 UP ONTO A PAD, 300 FEET, IT WORKS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.  
25 LANDOWNERS CAN WORK WITH IT. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A 300-FOOT





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1 DRIVEWAY AS A MINIMUM-- AS A MAXIMUM, THEY SAY THAT'S-- YOU  
2 CANNOT BUILD MORE THAN A 300-FOOT DRIVEWAY AND EVERYBODY CAN  
3 FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET TO A HOUSE WHEN IT'S ON-SITE GRADING,  
4 THOUGH SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO CROSS ANOTHER PARCEL TO GET TO  
5 IT, BUILD AN ACCESS ROAD AND THAT HAS TO BE EXCLUDED AS WELL.  
6 SO-- AND THEN YOUR GRADING LIMITS START OF HOW MUCH CUT AND  
7 FILL BUT IT'S NOT 5,000 CUBIC YARDS, IT'S REALLY ONLY 2,500  
8 CUBIC YARDS, BECAUSE YOU NEED TO CUT 25 TO PLACE IT 25, OR  
9 USUALLY YOU HAVE TO EXPORT IT OFF THE SITE.

10

11 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** SO HOW MANY CUBIC FEET ARE YOU LOOKING AT?  
12 HOW MANY YARDS?

13

14 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** I THINK YOU NEED AT LEAST A GRADING OF 10,000  
15 OF CUT AND 10,000 OF FILL IN A 300-FOOT DRIVEWAY AND YOU CAN  
16 DO A HOUSE AND YOU CAN ALSO GET YOUR POOL IN. YOU CAN GET A  
17 GUESTHOUSE IN. YOU CAN GET A, YOU KNOW, A SMALL EQUESTRIAN  
18 AREA, A BARN KIND OF THING.

19

20 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** YOU'RE SAYING 20,000?

21

22 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** AND YOU NEED A PAD OF AT LEAST 20,000 SQUARE  
23 FEET.

24



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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. SWEENEY, YOU'RE WELL KNOWN UP AND DOWN  
2   THE STATE FOR YOUR PROWESS AND YOU'VE BECOME, IN RECENT YEARS,  
3   A MAJOR LAND PURCHASER IN THIS AREA. SO I UNDERSTAND YOUR  
4   CONCERNS AND YOUR ISSUES IN TERMS OF WANTING-- I PARTIALLY  
5   UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS. WHY WOULD YOU OBJECT TO-- GIVEN THE  
6   FACT THAT YOU OWN LARGE PARCELS, IN SOME CASES, HUNDREDS OF  
7   ACRES OR SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES AT A TIME AND IF YOU ARE  
8   SINCERELY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THOSE PROPERTIES AND NOT  
9   SELLING THEM TO THE PARK SERVICE, AND YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD  
10   PARTNER TO THE PARK SERVICE AND I THINK YOU'VE DONE WELL BY  
11   THEM, TOO, OR TO THE CONSERVANCY. BUT IF YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP A  
12   HUNDRED OR 200 ACRES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, WHY WOULD  
13   YOU FEAR A-- ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH,  
14   WHY WOULD A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PROCESS BOTHER YOU SO MUCH?  
15   WHAT IS IT THAT YOU FEAR FROM CONDITIONAL USE PROCESS?

16

17   **BRIAN SWEENEY:** I THINK IT'S THE ARBITRARY NATURE. YOU KNOW,  
18   BASICALLY, IF THIS ORDINANCE PASSES AS IT'S WRITTEN, EVERY  
19   HOUSE WILL HAVE TO BE RIGHT BESIDE THE PARCEL LOT WHERE IT  
20   STARTS. IF YOU HAVE A 40-ACRE LOT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THE  
21   HOUSE RIGHT AS SOON AS YOU ENTER THAT PARCEL, THE HOUSE WILL  
22   HAVE TO BE THERE AND IT DOESN'T WORK. THE LAND DOESN'T WORK  
23   THAT WAY. YOU NEED A LITTLE WIGGLE ROOM FOR YOUR PAD. YOU  
24   DON'T HAVE IT WITH THE ORDINANCE. SO YOU'LL NEED TO-- EVERY--  
25   EXCUSE ME. I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT BUT EVERY-- I'VE



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1 SUBMITTED TO-- PROBABLY 10 HOUSES FOR APPLICATION AND APPROVAL  
2 AND ALL OF THEM WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT  
3 BUT ALL OF THEM ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE DESIGNS. WE TAKE GREAT  
4 PAINS TO MINIMIZE OUR IMPACTS AND YOU CAN REVIEW ANY OF MY  
5 PLOT PLANS AND I THINK-- I'M VERY HAPPY WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE  
6 DONE AND I'M TRYING TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN IN THE COMMUNITY. I'M  
7 JUST TRYING TO-- WHATEVER THE LAWS ARE, WE WORK WITH THEM.

8

9 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO THE CONDITIONAL USE PROCESS YOU'VE LIVED  
10 WITH THUS FAR...

11

12 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** I'VE NEVER HAD TO DO IT BECAUSE EVERY...

13

14 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAVE 10 PROJECTS THAT  
15 REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT?

16

17 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** NO, NONE HAVE REQUIRED CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS.  
18 I'M GOING THROUGH ALL-- ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE BECAUSE I JUST  
19 SAY, YOU KNOW WHAT? WHAT THE LAW IS, I WILL FOLLOW IT.

20

21 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** HOW MUCH GRADING ON THOSE PROJECTS?

22

23 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** TYPICALLY-- WELL, YOU KNOW, THE ACCESS ROADS  
24 ARE, I WOULD SAY, ON AVERAGE, 5,000 CUT AND 5,000 FILL, ON  
25 AVERAGE AND THE...



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WHAT IS THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF GRADING YOU'VE  
3 DONE IN THIS-- OR THAT YOU PROPOSE TO DO IN THE SANTA MONICA  
4 MOUNTAINS ON ANY OF YOUR PROPERTIES?

5

6 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** I BELIEVE, FOR A FAMILY HOUSE, IT'S PERHAPS THE  
7 LARGEST IS ABOUT 20,000 CUBIC YARDS OF CUT.

8

9 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** INCLUDING THE DRIVEWAY.

10

11 **BRIAN SWEENEY:** CUT. YEAH, INCLUDING THE DRIVEWAY. THAT'S THE  
12 LARGEST.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. MR. LAMPORT AND MISS  
15 ANDERSON.

16

17 **STANLEY W. LAMPORT:** GOOD MORNING-- GOOD AFTERNOON. JIM  
18 SUTHERLAND AND MILT ASHLEY ASKED ME TO TAKE THEIR TIME AS WELL  
19 AND TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WHAT WAS THE NAMES AGAIN, NOW?

22

23 **STANLEY W. LAMPORT:** JIM SUTHERLAND AND MILT ASHLEY.

24



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1   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WE'LL SORT OF LOOK FOR THEM RIGHT  
2   NOW. I THINK WE'RE GETTING SOME PHONY NAMES UP HERE. WE CAN'T  
3   FIND THE SUBSTITUTE SPEAKERS. OKAY. GO AHEAD.

4  
5   **STANLEY W. LAMPORT:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS STANLEY  
6   LAMPORT. I'M SPEAKING FOR THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND  
7   HOLDERS ASSOCIATION. AND I'M SOMEONE WHO HAS SPENT A FAIR  
8   AMOUNT OF HIS TIME PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL  
9   SIZES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, SO I'M SPEAKING NOT ONLY  
10   FROM MY EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER BUT ALSO GOING THROUGH THE  
11   PROCESS. IN 2000, THERE WAS A GUARANTEE THAT THE PLAN WOULDN'T  
12   RESULT IN ADDITIONAL REGULATORY IMPEDIMENTS AND SUPERVISOR  
13   ANTONOVICH READ FROM THE TRANSCRIPT THIS MORNING. AND I THINK  
14   THE THING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND IS THIS ORDINANCE  
15   IS SUPPOSED TO IMPLEMENT THE NORTH AREA PLAN. IT'S WORD PLAY  
16   TO SAY THAT THE PLAN WOULD NOT RESULT IN ADDITIONAL C.U.P.S  
17   BUT THE ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN DOES. THE POINT IS  
18   THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE NO ADDITIONAL REGULATORY  
19   IMPEDIMENTS. THIS IS THE MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN AND  
20   IT CLEARLY DOES OFFER ADDITIONAL C.U.P. REQUIREMENTS THAT  
21   DIDN'T PREVIOUSLY EXIST. THIS GUARANTEE ITSELF WAS CODIFIED IN  
22   THE NORTH AREA PLAN ITSELF. THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE IN THE  
23   NORTH AREA PLAN SAYS, "EXISTING LOTS ARE NOT AFFECTED AND MAY  
24   BE DEVELOPED FOLLOWING CURRENT DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS,  
25   REGARDLESS OF SIZE." THAT SENTENCE, WHICH WAS WHAT EVERYBODY



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1 WAS THINKING ABOUT WHEN I WAS BACK HERE FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN  
2 THE STATEMENT WAS THE PLAN WON'T RESULT IN ADDITIONAL C.U.P.S.,  
3 CLEARLY STATES EXISTING LOTS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE PLAN AND  
4 THOSE LOTS MAY BE DEVELOPED REGARDLESS OF SIZE FOLLOWING  
5 CURRENT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS. AND THAT IS WHAT THE  
6 REQUIREMENT WAS OF THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE AND THAT'S THE  
7 REASON WHY THAT GUARANTEE HAD SOME TEETH WHEN PEOPLE HEARD THE  
8 STATEMENTS THAT WERE STATED TO THE PUBLIC AT THE BOARD MEETING  
9 IN 2000. ADDITIONAL POINT THAT I THINK NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD  
10 IS-- AND YOU NEED TO LOOK AT THE ADDENDUM TO YOUR E.I.R., THE  
11 GRADING-- THE RIDGELINE PORTION OF THE ORDINANCE IN THE  
12 ADDENDUM TO THE E.I.R. CLEARLY SAYS THAT THERE ARE BIOLOGICAL  
13 AND GEOLOGICAL IMPACTS RESULTING FROM THIS PLAN BY PUSHING  
14 HOUSES OFF THE RIDGELINE ONTO THE SLOPES. THAT'S NOT A  
15 SURPRISING RESULT BECAUSE THE RIDGELINE PROVISIONS ARE GOING  
16 TO BRING CONSTRUCTION DOWN TO AREAS THAT ARE LESS STABLE AND  
17 AREAS THAT HAVE MORE VEGETATION. THERE'S USUALLY LESS  
18 VEGETATION AT THE TOP AND MORE AT THE BOTTOM. AND, IN FACT, IF  
19 YOU READ THE ADDENDUM TO THE E.I.R., IT SAYS, "AS A RESULT OF  
20 PROHIBITING DEVELOPMENT ON SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES, THERE WILL  
21 BE AN INCREASED TENDENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMITTED BY THE  
22 NORTH AREA PLAN THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE OCCURRED ON  
23 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES TO IMPACT CERTAIN SENSITIVE PLANT  
24 SPECIES" AND IT SAYS THE SAME THINGS WITH RESPECT TO WILDLIFE.  
25 IT CONCLUDES, "CONSEQUENTLY, TO THE EXTENT THAT FUTURE





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1 DEVELOPMENT PERMITTED BY THE NORTH AREA PLAN COULD HAVE  
2 OCCURRED ALONG SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE  
3 COULD CHANGE THE DIVERSITY AND NUMBER OF SPECIES, WHICH COULD  
4 BE SIGNIFICANT DEPENDING ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED  
5 DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES WITHIN  
6 THOSE AREAS." UNFORTUNATELY, THE ADDENDUM SOLUTION TO THESE  
7 IMPACTS IS TO SAY THAT ONE CAN GO THROUGH A VARIANCE PROCEDURE  
8 AND THAT, THROUGH A VARIANCE PROCEDURE, ONE COULD COME UP WITH  
9 A WAY OF PUTTING DEVELOPMENT THAT OTHERWISE HAD SIGNIFICANT  
10 BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS NEAR THE RIDGELINE. THE PROBLEM IS, A  
11 VARIANCE DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THAT TYPE OF PROCESS. A VARIANCE  
12 IS A LIMITED REMEDY IN SPECIAL OR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
13 THAT ARE NOT TIED TO POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF  
14 DEVELOPING ELSEWHERE ON SITE. AS LONG AS DEVELOPMENT IS  
15 PERMITTED SOMEWHERE ON AN APPLICANT'S PROPERTY THAT IS NOT  
16 WITHIN THE RIDGELINE SETBACK, THERE WOULD BE NO BASIS TO GRANT  
17 A VARIANCE UNDER THE COUNTY CODE. EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO PUT  
18 SOMETHING IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR LOCATION, A VARIANCE  
19 IS INHERENTLY NOT A TOOL TO MITIGATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS  
20 THAT THE ADDENDUM RECOGNIZES COULD RESULT FROM THE PLAN. SO  
21 YOU HAVE IMPACTS THAT THE ADDENDUM SAYS WERE NOT ADDRESSED IN  
22 THE PRIOR E.I.R. WITH A MITIGATION MEASURE THAT COULDN'T  
23 POSSIBLY MITIGATE THOSE IMPACTS. AND ALL THIS SPEAKS TO THE  
24 FACT THAT YOU NEED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE ORDINANCE TO  
25 ADDRESS SITUATIONS WHERE YOU'RE DEVELOPING OFF OF A RIDGELINE



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1 AND IN PLACES WHERE THERE'S ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY. IF THE  
2 GUIDING PHILOSOPHY OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN WAS LET THE LAND  
3 DICTATE THE USE, THEN WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY WITH  
4 RESPECT TO THE SKYLINE ELEMENT IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN TO ALLOW  
5 FOR DEVELOPMENT CLOSER TO THE RIDGELINE WHERE IT'S  
6 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR. THIS PLAN DOESN'T GIVE YOU THAT  
7 FLEXIBILITY. THERE ARE ENGINEER LETTERS IN YOUR FILES, I'VE  
8 SEEN THEM GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS, THAT IDENTIFY, I THINK,  
9 AT LEAST 22 PROJECTS CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH THE PLOT PLAN  
10 REVIEW PROCESS THAT WOULD REQUIRE C.U.P.S UNDER THIS  
11 ORDINANCE. AND, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, IT'S BECAUSE OF THE  
12 DRIVEWAY. AND THE REASON IS, IN MOST CASES, THESE LOTS ARE NOT  
13 NEXT TO A PUBLIC ROAD. IN SOME CASES, IN MANY CASES, YOU HAVE  
14 TO CROSS MULTIPLE LOTS TO GET TO YOUR PROPERTY. SO THE RESULT  
15 IS, YOU MAY HAVE TO GO A THOUSAND FEET OR MORE JUST TO GET TO  
16 YOUR PROPERTY AND THEN FIGURE OUT WHERE ON YOUR PROPERTY  
17 YOU'RE GOING TO TO LOCATE YOUR PAD. IT WOULD BE ONE THING FOR  
18 THE ORDINANCE TO SAY, LIKE THE LAND USE PLAN FOR THE COUNTY'S  
19 PORTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE SAYS, THAT ON-SITE GRADING ACCESS  
20 ROADS WILL BE LIMITED IN LENGTH OF 300 FEET AND THERE YOU CAN  
21 SAY, OKAY, YOU'VE NOW GOT TO FIND SOMETHING CLOSE TO THE  
22 BOUNDARY OF YOUR PROPERTY, THE FIRST AVAILABLE PAD. THAT  
23 EXISTS IN A COASTAL ZONE. NOW, IT'S ANOTHER THING TO MAKE  
24 SOMEONE GO THROUGH A C.U.P. PROCESS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE  
25 TO CROSS A SERIES OF LOTS TO BUILD A DRIVEWAY THAT THE FIRE



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1 DEPARTMENT'S GOING TO REQUIRE THEM TO HAVE JUST TO GET TO  
2 THEIR PROPERTY BECAUSE THERE'S NO ROAD THERE. THE REASON WHY  
3 PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE C.U.P. PROCESS IS BECAUSE, IN  
4 THE COUNTY, IT'S AN INHERENTLY COSTLY AND VERY TIME-CONSUMING  
5 PROCESS. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO BE ASKED TO COME UP  
6 WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS OR TO COME UP WITH OTHER  
7 RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY GO BEYOND WHAT IT IS THAT THEY THINK  
8 THAT THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH ON THEIR PROPERTY, AND IT TAKES A  
9 LOT OF TIME. AND YOU PRICE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE ABLE  
10 TO BUILD HOUSES OUT OF THE MARKET BY MAKING THE PROCESS  
11 EXPENSIVE AND ALL YOU HAVE LEFT ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD  
12 TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS AND THEN YOU LAMENT THAT IT'S THE  
13 WEALTHY PEOPLE THAT ARE ONLY GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS. WE  
14 NEED TO STOP THE PROCESS AND FIND A MORE WORKABLE SOLUTION. IF  
15 THE DIALOGUE IS AVAILABLE TO TALK ABOUT HOW TO AFFECT...

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP.

18

19 **STANLEY W. LAMPORT:** ...THIS ORDINANCE, WE ARE HAPPY TO ENGAGE  
20 IT.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, IF I COULD ASK-- COULD I ASK  
23 MR. ZOLA TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT MR. LAMPORT  
24 HAS MADE? I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE RECORD.

25



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1   **LLOYD ZOLA:** THE ADDENDUM DOES ADDRESS THE BIOLOGICAL AND OTHER  
2   IMPACTS. THE ISSUE IS THAT, IN MANY CASES, BY HAVING THE  
3   SHORTER ROADWAYS, THAT THE DEVELOPMENT CAN OCCUR IN LESS  
4   SENSITIVE PORTIONS OF THE SITE, SO THERE IS A BALANCING THAT  
5   OCCURS. AND WHAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL-- WHAT THE INITIAL STUDY  
6   DOES IS LOOK AT THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD BE  
7   ALLOWED BY THE ORDINANCE AS IT IS PROPOSED, COMPARES IT TO THE  
8   ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT THAT THIS BOARD CERTIFIED AND  
9   COMES TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME  
10   DIFFERENCES IN IMPACTS, THAT THE NET IMPACTS ARE ESSENTIALLY  
11   NO MORE SEVERE THAN WHAT WAS CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD AND THAT  
12   THERE WILL NOT BE NEW SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OCCURRING AS A  
13   RESULT OF THE ORDINANCE. AND, FOR THAT REASON, THE CONCLUSION  
14   WAS THAT THE ADDENDUM WAS THE APPROPRIATE MEANS FOR  
15   ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION.

16

17   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. PATRICIA ANDERSON. I JUST WANT BOTH  
18   SIDES TO UNDERSTAND THIS. I'VE HAD THIS ON BOTH SIDES HERE SO  
19   FAR. WHEN YOU GET YOUR TWO MINUTES, YOU GET YOUR TWO MINUTES.  
20   NO MORE SHARING OF TIME BECAUSE SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE  
21   THE SHARING OF TIME HAVE NOT SIGNED UP, SO I JUST WANT TO BE  
22   FAIR TO BOTH SIDES. YOU GET TWO MINUTES. OKAY. THANK YOU.

23

24   **PATRICIA ANDERSON:** MY NAME IS PATRICIA ANDERSON AND I'M GOING  
25   TO BE MERCIFULLY SHORT. I'M REPRESENTING MY HUSBAND, DAN



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1 ANDERSON, AS WELL AS MYSELF AND WE ARE PROPERTY OWNERS IN  
2 TOPANGA AND ALSO REPRESENTING RYAN ANDERSON AND DIANE ANDERSON  
3 WHO ARE NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS FAMILY MEMBERS, SO I'M GOING TO  
4 READ THE LETTER THAT HE WROTE BECAUSE IT REALLY DOVETAILS WITH  
5 MY FEELINGS. "MY FAMILY AND I ARE STRONGLY CONCERNED THAT THE  
6 ADOPTION OF THE GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE IS IN  
7 VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHTS AS PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS. WE BELIEVE  
8 THAT IT WILL REDUCE THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY AND PLACE UNDUE  
9 BURDENS ON OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THERE ARE ALREADY TOO MANY  
10 LAWS THAT MAKE BUILDING A HOME IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
11 VERY DIFFICULT. THIS ORDINANCE WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.  
12 PLEASE CONSIDER THE RAMIFICATIONS." AND I'D LIKE TO ADD, TOO,  
13 THAT SOMEBODY SPOKE EARLIER ABOUT POSSIBLY SEPARATING THE  
14 GRADING WITH THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE AND MAYBE MAKING THOSE  
15 TWO SEPARATE ORDINANCES AND I THINK THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD  
16 IDEA, THAT MIGHT BE SOMETHING THAT WE COULD LOOK AT, SO THANK  
17 YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. NEXT, JOAN YACOVORE, JOAN  
20 KAY, AND RABYN BLAKE. ARE THEY STILL HERE?

21

22 **RABYN BLAKE:** HELLO. I'M RABYN BLAKE HERE FOR THE TOPANGA  
23 CANYON CREEK SIDE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. WE WHO LIVE ALONG  
24 THE CREEK ARE INTIMATELY AWARE THAT THE CREEK IS AN INDICATOR  
25 OF THE HEALTH OF THE WATERSHED. SOME YEARS AGO, WHEN WE HAD



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1    QUITE A BIT OF GRADING UP ON THE MESA ABOVE US, THE CREEK  
2    TURNED INTO A TAHITIAN BEACHFRONT. OTHER TIMES, THE INCREASED  
3    FLOW RATE FROM GRADING ABOVE HAS UNDERCUT THE BANKS AND CAUSED  
4    FLOODING PROBLEMS. DRIVING THROUGH THE CANYON, WE ARE  
5    DISPIRITED EVERY TIME WE SEE A HOUSE DESECRATING A RIDGELINE.  
6    WE FEEL THAT THIS ORDINANCE WILL PUT SOME TEETH INTO THE NORTH  
7    AREA PLAN AND TO THE GOALS AND POLICIES. WE DO APPLAUD THE  
8    VISION AND THE MINDFULNESS OF THOSE WHO CREATED THE GUIDELINES  
9    FOR THE FUTURE BUILDERS COMING TO THE MOUNTAINS. WE FEEL THAT  
10   THOSE WHO BUILD SHOULD COME TO THE MOUNTAIN. THAT SHOULD TAKE  
11   PRECEDENCE OVER THE MOUNTAIN COMING TO THE BUILDERS, TO THE  
12   DEVELOPER. THIS IS THE OBLIGATION OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE  
13   IN THE MOUNTAINS, WE BELIEVE. THANK YOU.

14

15   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT?

16

17   **JOAN YACOVORE:** MY NAME IS JOAN YACOVORE. I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF  
18   THE LIBERTY CANYON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. GOOD MORNING,  
19   SUPERVISORS. ON BEHALF OF LIBERTY CANYON...

20

21   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND YOU'RE ALSO A FORMER MAYOR OF...

22

23   **JOAN YACOVORE:** I'M ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL NORTH AREA  
24   PLAN. I'VE BEEN ON THIS COMMITTEE, I THINK WE COME ALMOST TO  
25   10 YEARS NOW AND IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE THIS COMING TO A--





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1 HOPEFULLY, COMING TO A POSITIVE END. ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERTY  
2 CANYON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH REPRESENTS OVER 200  
3 HOMEOWNERS, I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED  
4 GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE AS DRAFTED BY L.A. COUNTY  
5 REGIONAL PLANNING STAFF AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE NORTH AREA  
6 PLAN. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, LIBERTY CANYON HAS A LONG HISTORY  
7 OF GRADING ISSUES AS A COMMUNITY IN THE SANTA MONICA  
8 MOUNTAINS. MANY OF OUR HOMES HAD SLOPE FAILURES AS A RESULT OF  
9 POOR GRADING STANDARDS BACK IN THE '60S WHICH WAS THEN UNDER  
10 LA COUNTY. AS RECENTLY AS ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, AFTER  
11 INCORPORATION OF AGOURA HILLS ATTRACTED JOINING OUR SOUTHEAST  
12 BORDER IN THE COUNTY AREA WAS GRADED BY CHOPPING OFF HILLTOPS  
13 AND FILLING IN THREE CANYONS, AS PERMITTED BY THE GRADING AT  
14 THE TIME. SLOPE DRAINAGE AND CRACKING PROBLEMS ALSO OCCURRED  
15 IN THESE HOMES. THE NORTH AREA PLAN WAS THE RESULT OF OVER  
16 NINE YEARS OF MEETINGS WITH THE COUNTY, THE LAS VIRGINIAS  
17 MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, THE LAS VIRGINIAS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
18 AND THE FIVE CITIES IN THE AREA. ITS PASSAGE WAS CELEBRATED AS  
19 A MILESTONE OF COOPERATIVE PLANNING. THE GRADING AND RIDGELINE  
20 ORDINANCE IS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
21 PLAN. OUR BIGGEST CONCERN IS THAT WE FEEL THAT A C.U.P. SHOULD  
22 BE REQUIRED FOR ANY GRADING IN EXCESS OF 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OR  
23 FOR GRADING THAT CREATES A GRADED AREA OF MORE THAN 15,000  
24 SQUARE FEET. IN ADDITION, NO GRADING PERMIT SHOULD BE ISSUED  
25 PRIOR TO THE RECORDING OF THE FINAL TRACT MAP. WE DID HAVE ONE



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1 DEVELOPER THAT GRADED AND LEFT SIT UNDEVELOPED FOR FIVE YEARS  
2 A LARGE AREA IN LIBERTY CANYON. THE MAIN PRINCIPLE OF THE  
3 NORTH AREA PLAN AND THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GUIDED THE COMMITTEES  
4 THROUGH ITS FORMATION WAS LET THE LAND DICTATE THE TYPE AND  
5 INTENSITY OF ITS USE AND WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS  
6 ORDINANCE. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I HAVE A SON WHO LIVES IN  
7 SAGAS, WHICH IS MR. ANTONOVICH'S AREA, AND EVERY TIME HE COMES  
8 HOME TO AGOURA HILLS, HE COMMENTS ON HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT  
9 WE'VE MAINTAINED OUR SLOPES, AS OPPOSED TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
10 HIS AREA. THANK YOU.

11

12 **JOAN KAY:** MY NAME IS JOAN KAY, I LIVE IN THE HORSE COMMUNITY  
13 OF MONTE NIDO AND I ENJOY KEEPING AND RIDING HORSES. I'VE  
14 SHOWN HORSES FROM SALINAS TO OCEAN SIDE AND HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD  
15 BACKGROUND AS A HORSE WOMAN. I AM HERE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I  
16 TOTALLY SUPPORT THIS RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. I DON'T FEEL THAT IT  
17 IN ANY WAY INHIBITS MY ENJOYMENT OF MY HORSES. IN FACT, IT  
18 ENHANCES MY ENJOYMENT. IT DOESN'T INHIBIT ME IN OWNING HORSES,  
19 I OWN WHATEVER I LIKE, AND HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THAT. I  
20 CERTAINLY OPPOSE THE CONCEPT OF GIVING EXCEPTIONS TO THE  
21 BUSINESS OF HORSE KEEPING JUST AS MUCH AS IF WE WERE GIVING  
22 EXCEPTIONS TO THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS OR THE HOTEL BUSINESS,  
23 BED AND BREAKFAST ON TOP OF RIDGELINES. THE HORSE BUSINESS  
24 SHOULD NOT BE SUBSIDIZED BY THE LEGACY THAT WE'RE LEAVING THAT



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1    IMPORTANT CRUCIAL LEGACY OF OUR RIDGELINES TO FUTURE  
2    GENERATIONS. AND I DO THANK YOU.

3

4    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NOW GOING BACK TO THE OPPOSED  
5    SIDE, RICHARD WARPACK, ALAN SEMET, AND MARVA SEMET, OR ONE OF  
6    THE SEMETS WANT TO GIVE UP, THEN WE'LL HAVE ERIC KNAPP COME  
7    UP. OKAY. IF YOU LET ME KNOW, SO IF THE OTHER ONE IS HERE,  
8    THEN I CAN CALL OTHERS. YOU ARE? OKAY. GO AHEAD.

9

10   **MARVA SEMET:** ME FIRST?

11

12   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES.

13

14   **MARVA SEMET:** I AM A RESIDENT OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS.

15

16   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD, PLEASE.

17

18   **MARVA SEMET:** MY NAME IS MARVA SEMET.

19

20   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

21

22   **MARVA SEMET:** THE NORTH AREA PLAN, AS IT STANDS, WITHOUT THE  
23   GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE AS IT STANDS, WILL NEVER LOOK  
24   LIKE CALABASAS OR PACIFIC PALISADES, AS IS FEARED. THERE'S NO  
25   REASON TO CRISSCROSS THE LANDSCAPE WITH ARBITRARILY-SELECTED



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1 SIGNIFICANT RIDGES BECAUSE THE PRESENT NORTH AREA PLAN LIMITS  
2 RIDGELINE DEVELOPMENT TO A LOW DENSITY OF APPROXIMATELY ONE  
3 RESIDENCE PER 31 ACRES. FURTHER SUBDIVISIONS ALREADY TRIGGER  
4 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS. THE BUILDING OF STRUCTURES ON THE  
5 HILLSIDES WILL HAVE A MUCH GREATER VISUAL IMPACT. A VEGETATIVE  
6 SCREEN WHICH COULD NOT BE PLANTED THAT COULD CAMOUFLAGE THE  
7 ENORMOUS FACADES THAT WOULD EXIST. THE REQUIRED RETAINING  
8 WALLS FOR DRIVEWAYS, THE MULTIPLE STORAGE STRUCTURES ATOP TALL  
9 FOUNDATIONS WOULD BE BLINDING MASSIVE STRUCTURES. THE HABITATS  
10 FOR NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
11 EXISTS ON THE HILLSIDES, NOT THE RIDGELINES. FOR, AS YOU CAN  
12 SEE FROM THE SATELLITE PICTURE, ROADS ALREADY EXIST ATOP  
13 RIDGES OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. I ADVOCATE STANDARDS  
14 WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO FURTHER REDUCE THE VISUAL AND  
15 ECOLOGICAL IMPACT, SUCH AS LIMIT CONSTRUCTION TO ONE STORY OR  
16 MULTIPLE LEVELS MUST BE STEPPED INTO THE HILLSIDES. MANDATE  
17 THE USE OF SAFE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODS. FOR  
18 EXAMPLE, CONCRETE WALLS, ROOFS AND FIRE SHUTTERS. AS SUCH, THE  
19 BRUSH CLEARANCE CAN BE REDUCED AND THE VEGETATIVE SCREEN PUT  
20 CLOSE TO THE STRUCTURE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. MANDATE OUTSIDE  
21 COLORS OF THE STRUCTURE TO MATCH THAT OF THE SURROUNDING  
22 NATURAL LANDSCAPE. MANDATE THE USE OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES,  
23 FOR POWER LINES IS THE BIGGEST BLIGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS TODAY  
24 AS THEY BECOME VERITABLE WALLS WITH EVER THICKER CABLES.  
25 STANDARDS SUCH AS THESE MAKE SENSE AND WILL GET COMMUNITY



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1 SUPPORT. THE ORDINANCE, AS IT STANDS, LACKS THESE AND THE MORE  
2 CAPITALIZED DEVELOPER WILL STILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE SORT  
3 OF OSTENTATIOUS MANSION THAT MOTIVATED THE PROPONENTS OF THIS  
4 ORDINANCE TO DO SOMETHING IN THE FIRST PLACE. THANK YOU.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT?

7

8 **ALAN SEMET:** HELLO. I'M ALAN SEMET, I LIVE IN TOPANGA AND I'M  
9 OPPOSED TO THIS ORDINANCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. I WAS FOR  
10 THE NORTH AREA PLAN AND SUPPORTED THE SPIRIT OF THE PLAN WHICH  
11 SAYS THAT THE LAND SHOULD DICTATE THE USE. RIDGE ACCESS  
12 PARCELS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY DISMISSED BY STAFF. THESE ARE MANY  
13 PARCELS THAT ARE ACCESS AND HAVE BEEN SUBDIVIDED ON THE BASIS  
14 OF RIDGE ROADS. THEY HAVE NO BOTTOM ACCESS. FOR THESE, MOVING  
15 OFF THE RIDGE AND CUTTING INTO RICH HILLSIDE VEGETATION AND  
16 HABITAT IS ESSENTIALLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME. THERE'S SOME  
17 MISGUIDING POINTS ON THE ORDINANCE, BECAUSE A 50-FOOT  
18 HORIZONTAL, 50-FOOT VERTICAL THAT YOU HEAR OVER AND OVER IS TO  
19 CONFOUND THE PUBLIC IN VISUALIZING A 50-FOOT HORIZONTAL  
20 SEPARATION FROM THE RIDGE. THIS 50-FOOT IS NEVER THE CASE  
21 BECAUSE YOU WOULD NEED TO HAVE A RIDGE WHICH IS OVER ONE-TO-  
22 ONE GRADE FOR OVER 65 FEET, WHICH DOES NOT EXIST ON ANY OF THE  
23 DEPICTED SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES. AND MORE 3-TO-1 OR 4-TO-1  
24 SLOPE ENCOUNTERED NEAR THE RIDGELINE, THESE MEANS A REALLY  
25 SEVERE 300 TO 400-FOOT HORIZONTAL EXCLUSION ZONE ACROSS THE



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1 RIDGE. NOW IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ANYONE THAT FREQUENTS THESE  
2 HILLS THAT THIS KIND OF SEPARATION PUTS A POTENTIAL  
3 DEVELOPMENT SO FAR AWAY FROM RIDGELINES AND INTO DELICATE  
4 HILLSIDE VEGETATION AND HABITAT, CREATING A SEVERE  
5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS OPPOSED TO THE RELATIVELY BENIGN  
6 RIDGELINE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT, WHICH IS POSSIBLE WITH LOW  
7 ELEVATION HOUSE, WHICH I WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A 12-FOOT MAXIMUM  
8 ELEVATION FOR RIDGE AND STEPPED CONSTRUCTION...

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

11

12 **ALAN SEMET:** ...AS WELL AS FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. YES, SIR. MR. KNAPP?

15

16 **ERIC KNAPP:** MY NAME IS ERIC KNAPP. I LIVE IN RANCHO PALES  
17 VERDES, MY OWN PROPERTY IN TOPANGA. I'VE OWNED IT FOR 25  
18 YEARS. I STILL WANT TO BUILD ON THIS PARCEL THE ROADBLOCKS TO  
19 BUILDING IT HAVE CONTINUALLY BEEN A BARRIER TO DEVELOPMENT. I  
20 AM PROCEEDING SLOWLY AND THE BUDGET NOW IS GOING TO BE  
21 \$150,000 OF WORK IN PAPER BEFORE WE MOVE ONE SHOVEL OF DIRT  
22 AND GET THE PERMITTING PROCESS AND THIS ORDINANCE WILL MAKE IT  
23 EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO PROCEED. MANY POINTS THAT I WOULD MAKE  
24 HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. I'D LIKE TO GO AHEAD AND FOCUS ON--  
25 FOR A MINUTE ON THE PLANNING PROCESS. THREE MEETINGS WERE HELD





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1 WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION IN WHICH THOSE EXTENSIVE DEBATE  
2 PROS AND CONS OF THE ORDINANCE'S FEATURES. AT THE VERY LAST  
3 HOUR OF THAT MEETING, STAFF PRESENTED FOUR ADDITIONS TO THAT  
4 AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT DID NOT HAVE THE  
5 OPPORTUNITY FOR DEBATE. THE FIRST ONE WAS THAT THE GRADIENT  
6 WOULD BE CUMULATIVE IN PERPETUITY. SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH,  
7 YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT THE C.U.P. PROCESS. BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO  
8 BE IN PERPETUITY, SOMEBODY CAN DO 2,000 FEET NOW, 3,000 FEET  
9 LATER AND THAT'S NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT. AS SOON AS THEY WANT  
10 TO GO AHEAD AND PUT IN THAT CORRAL OR THE EXTRA BEDROOM AND  
11 MOVE EVEN 1,000 YARDS OF DIRT, THEY'RE SUDDENLY GOING TO BE  
12 FORCED INTO THE C.U.P. PROCESS FOR SUCH A MINOR AMOUNT. IN  
13 PERPETUITY MEANS THAT, IN 50 YEARS, EVERY PARCEL IS GOING TO  
14 BE REQUIRING A C.U.P. PROCESS, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE JUST THE  
15 FIRST DEVELOPER. IT'S GOING TO BE EVERYBODY THAT'S MAKING AN  
16 ADDITION TO THEIR HOUSE. SECOND THING IS THAT THE 5,000 YARDS  
17 CUT-AND-FILL IS A DOUBLE DIP IN THE RESTRICTION. PEOPLE ARE  
18 BUILDING THEIR HOMES UP THERE WITH NET CUT AND FILLS AND, IF  
19 YOU LOOK AT THE YARDAGE THAT ARE INVOLVED AND THE  
20 CALCULATIONS, I'VE DONE THE RESEARCH ON SOME OF THOSE, THAT  
21 THE AVERAGE YARDAGE TALKED ABOUT IS THE AVERAGE YARDS OF THE  
22 AMOUNT THAT WAS MOVED, NOT THE AMOUNT THAT WAS CUT, MULTIPLIED  
23 BY TWO BECAUSE IT WAS ALSO RETAINED ON THE PROPERTY. THIS IS A  
24 BAD ORDINANCE AND I HOPE THAT YOU REJECT IT.

25



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT, MOVING BACK TO THE FAVOR  
2    SIDE, MARY ALTMANN, SANDRA GOLD, AND ROBERT HOLMES.

3

4    **MARY ALTMANN:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS MARY ALTMANN AND, IN  
5    THE INTEREST OF TIME, I JUST HAD A COUPLE COMMENTS TO MAKE  
6    REGARDING THIS. I'M VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE RIDGELINE  
7    GRADING ORDINANCE AND, AS A PAST DIRECTOR OF THE RESOURCE  
8    CONSERVATION DISTRICT FROM 1994 TO 1998, I WORKED WITH PEOPLE  
9    ALL AROUND THE STATE WHO WERE PROTECTING THEIR RESOURCES IN  
10   DIFFERENT COUNTIES LIKE TRINITY COUNTY AND PLACER COUNTY NEAR  
11   THE TAHOE AREA AND ALL OF THESE COUNTIES HAD ORDINANCES LIKE  
12   THIS BUT MUCH MORE COMPLETE IN PLACE BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT  
13   THE FIRE AND EROSION REALLY DEVASTATED THEIR LAND AND BECAUSE  
14   OF L.A. COUNTY AND WE HAVE SUCH A SMALL PART OF THE MOUNTAINS  
15   IN THIS COUNTY, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AS AWARE OF HOW SERIOUS  
16   IT IS AND HOW MUCH WE NEED THESE-- THIS GRADING ORDINANCE. AND  
17   ALSO I'D LIKE TO MENTION THAT A PROPERTY NEAR OURS, A MAN GOT  
18   A PERMIT FOR-- TO GRADE A HORSE CORRAL AND PROCEEDED TO GRADE  
19   FOR 15 HOMES AND THEN LET IT SIT FOR 10 YEARS AND, UNDER THESE  
20   OLD GRADING ORDINANCES, PEOPLE CAN JUST DO THAT. AND IT SCARS  
21   THE LAND, IT'S UPSETTING TO EVERYONE INVOLVED AND IT'S JUST  
22   NOT FAIR. AND AS STEWARDS OF THE LAND, WHO YOU ARE, BECAUSE  
23   YOU'RE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF L.A. COUNTY, I REALLY ASK  
24   YOU TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND AND APPROVE THIS COMMUNITY  
25   STANDARDS DISTRICT. THANK YOU.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT.

3

4 **SANDRA GOLD:** GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M SANDRA GOLD. I AM A HORSE  
5 OWNER. I BOARD MY HORSE IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. I HAVE A  
6 CONCERN. MY HORSE IS PASTURED JUST BELOW A RIDGE, WHICH JUST  
7 RECENTLY I HAVE WATCHED THE ENTIRE TOP OF THE RIDGE BE CUT OFF  
8 FOR A VINEYARD. TO ME, IT'S CONCERNING OF THE MUD THAT IS  
9 GOING TO COME DOWN AND IT JUST LOOKS TERRIBLE. I AM BY NO  
10 MEANS A PUBLIC SPEAKER. I AM BASICALLY NEW TO ALL OF THIS HERE  
11 BUT I'VE HEARD, OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY, LET THE LAND  
12 DICTATE ITS USE. WELL, TO ME AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, THIS  
13 LAND IS TELLING YOU NOT TO BUILD ON IT AND I THINK WE SHOULD  
14 LISTEN.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

17

18 **ROBERT HOLMES:** MY NAME IS ROBERT HOLMES, 3700 OLD OAK ROAD IN  
19 AGOURA, JUST ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THAT MAP UP THERE IN THE  
20 NORTH AREA PLAN. I'LL BE BRIEF. I'D LIKE TO SUBMIT SOME  
21 PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME TROPHY HOMES THAT ARE CONSTRUCTED ON THE  
22 RIDGELINES IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN. I THINK A PICTURE IS WORTH  
23 A THOUSAND WORDS. I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M A HOMEOWNER--  
24 I MEAN, A HORSE OWNER, EXCUSE ME AND THE RESOURCE OF THE SANTA  
25 MONICA MOUNTAINS IS ONE OF TRAILS. IT'S NOT ONE OF DRESSAGE,



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1 ARENAS, OR RODEO ARENAS AND WE'RE SATISFIED WITH THE FACILITY  
2 AS IT IS AS A TRAIL RESOURCE. I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT, 40  
3 YEARS AGO, I USED TO LIVE IN THE PACIFIC PALISADES AND WE USED  
4 TO MAKE A DAY HIKE BACK TO SKULL ROCK, WHICH WAS SEVERAL MILES  
5 INTO THE SANTA MONICAS. IT USED TO BE A FABULOUS DAY OF  
6 WILDERNESS. A FEW YEARS AGO, I MADE THE SAME HIKE, ALL THE WAY  
7 BACK THROUGH TO MESCAL CANYON, ALL THE WAY BACK TO SKULL ROCK,  
8 AND WAS SADDENED TO SEE THAT, JUST OVER THE SIDE OF THE HILL,  
9 WAS A DEVELOPMENT OF HOMES AND WHAT, AT ONE TIME, WAS A  
10 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE, UNFORTUNATELY IS NOW A SIGNIFICANT  
11 STREET LINE AND IT WAS DISHEARTENING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

12

13 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. SANDRA, DID YOU HAVE A QUESTION  
14 ABOUT THE BOARDING OF YOUR HORSE? OR YOU'RE OKAY?

15

16 **SANDRA GOLD:** NO, NO. I'M FINE ABOUT IT.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OH, I THOUGHT YOU SAID...

19

20 **SANDRA GOLD:** IT'S A CONCERN BUT-- YEAH, THE WHOLE RIDGELINE  
21 WAS CUT OFF AND IT IS COMPLETELY MUD-- IT'S MUD NOW BUT THE  
22 WHOLE...

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OH, I THOUGHT YOU HAD A QUESTION ABOUT THE  
25 LOCATION OR HOW...



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1

2 **SANDRA GOLD:** THE LOCATION I KEEP MY HORSE IS WHERE EVERYBODY  
3 EVACUATES TO, SO...

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. I JUST WANTED  
6 TO MAKE SURE IF YOU NEEDED AN ANSWER. ALL RIGHT. RAY STEWART,  
7 BRIAN BOUDREAU, AND DR. GEORGE LAZIK.

8

9 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I THINK YOU ALREADY HEARD FROM GEORGE LAZIK,  
10 I THINK, LEFT.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PARDON ME?

13

14 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I THINK LAZIK. IS GONE.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DR. LAZIK LEAVE? OKAY. ROBERT EVREN. EXCUSE  
17 ME. I'M SORRY. HANG ON HERE, MR. EVREN. YOU'RE ON THE OTHER  
18 SIDE HERE. LYNN BROWN. ARE YOU MR. EVREN? I'LL CALL YOU WITH  
19 THE-- THEY HAD YOU-- SOME OF YOU HAD SIGNED UP FOR PUBLIC  
20 COMMENTS VERSUS A SPECIFIC OPPOSE, SO WE'LL PUT YOU ON THE  
21 RIGHT SIDE HERE AND WE'LL GET YOU ON THE NEXT ONE. LYNN BROWN,  
22 PLEASE. OKAY. THE THREE OF YOU. THANK YOU. GO AHEAD.

23

24 **RAY STEWART:** HI. MY NAME IS RAY STEWART. I'M A RESIDENT OF THE  
25 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, A DEVELOPER OF SOFTWARE AND A



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1 DEVELOPER OF ONE HORSE ARENA ABOUT 200 FEET BY 100 FEET. I,  
2 WITH MANY OTHERS, WORKED IN GOOD FAITH WITH THE COUNTY ON THE  
3 NORTH AREA PLAN. THE CURRENT GRADING AND RIDGELINE PROPOSAL  
4 BREAKS THE TRUST AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN.  
5 RIDGELINE HILLSIDE MANAGEMENT GOAL 4(2) WAS TO PROTECT  
6 RIDGELINES AND VIEWS FROM KEY PUBLIC LANDS, TRAILS AND SCENIC  
7 HIGHWAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, CANAAN. THE CURRENT DESIGNATION IS  
8 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES FORGOT THE WORDS "KEY AND PUBLIC" AND  
9 GOES A THOUSAND TIMES BEYOND THE POLICIES OF THE NORTH AREA  
10 PLAN. THE CONSENSUS OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN WAS TO PRESERVE  
11 UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF A NATURAL SKYLINE. AS PER SECTION 4-14,  
12 THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE PREVENTS ANY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN 50  
13 VERTICAL FEET OF A RIDGELINE. THE DIFFERENCE IS PROFOUND AND  
14 NOT PER THE NORTH AREA PLAN. WE'VE GONE FROM PROTECTING  
15 SKYLINES TO RESTRICTING ANY USE CLOSE TO ANY RIDGELINE. PAGE  
16 1-4 OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN STATES THAT, "ALL LEGALLY  
17 ESTABLISHED USES IN EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION OF THE  
18 NORTH AREA PLAN ARE DEEMED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS PLAN.  
19 EXISTING LEGAL LOTS ARE NOT AFFECTED AND MAY BE DEVELOPED  
20 FOLLOWING CURRENT DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS." PASSAGE OF THE  
21 ORDINANCE BREAKS THE ABOVE-WRITTEN PROMISE AND WASTES TAXPAYER  
22 MONIES IN NEEDLESS LITIGATION. SUPERVISORS, FOLLOW THE LAW,  
23 KEEP YOUR WORD. SEND THIS ORDINANCE BACK AND CONFORM WITH THE  
24 NORTH AREA PLAN AND ALLOW PROJECTS THAT CONFORM TO THE NATURAL





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1 TOPOGRAPHY, AS PER SECTION 4-22 OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN. PLEASE  
2 VOTE "NO".

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

5

6 **BRIAN BOUDREAU:** GOOD AFTERNOON, SUPERVISORS. MY NAME IS BRIAN  
7 BOUDREAU AND I LIVE AT 26885 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY, CALABASAS,  
8 CALIFORNIA. I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT TWO THINGS TODAY BECAUSE  
9 THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT DEVELOPERS. THE DEVELOPERS ARE  
10 GONE. THEY'VE BEEN GONE. THE B.I.A. WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO  
11 DO WITH THIS. NEITHER WOULD ANY OTHER AGENCY. IF THERE'S NO  
12 LAND LEFT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE PLAN, GOALS THAT WE WERE  
13 WORKING ON WAS TO ELIMINATE THOSE DEVELOPMENTS BUT TO LEAVE  
14 THE GUY ON A SINGLE LEGAL LOT ALONE AND THAT WAS THE PROMISE.  
15 I WANT TO BRING SOMETHING UP UP IN ANOTHER SECTION UNDER THE  
16 MOUNTAIN LAND SECTION AND I'M GOING TO READ FROM THE SEPTEMBER  
17 DRAFT THAT WAS DONE, WHICH WAS ONE MONTH BEFORE THE ADOPTED  
18 VERSION. AND UNDER THE MOUNTAIN LANDS, IT SAID-- THIS IS USES  
19 OTHER THAN ESTATE HOUSING, IT SAYS, "OTHER USES THAT MAY BE  
20 FOUND COMPATIBLE WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES OF THIS  
21 PLAN SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO LAND FORMING RESOURCE  
22 PROTECTION, WATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT SAFETY PROVISIONS AND THE  
23 PRESERVATION OF RURAL CHARACTER INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL, HORSE  
24 STABLES, RETREATS, MONASTERIES, PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS, BED AND  
25 BREAKFAST, LOW INTENSITY CONFERENCE CENTERS, PRIVATE AND



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1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SOME OTHER ISSUES." THE ADOPTED VERSION  
2 CHANGED TO SAY, "PERMITTED USES INCLUDE LOW DENSITY SINGLE-  
3 FAMILY HOUSING, AGRICULTURE, EQUESTRIAN USES, RETREATS,  
4 MONASTERIES AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS, BED AND BREAKFAST, LOW  
5 INTENSITY CONFERENCE CENTERS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS,  
6 WATER TANKS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TOWERS," AND SO ON. THE KEY  
7 CHANGE THERE WAS "PERMITTED USES" BECAUSE, A MONTH EARLIER,  
8 THE PLAN SAID "WHERE CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES OF THIS  
9 PLAN," AND WE ARGUED THAT THAT MEANT SOMEONE HAD TO MAKE A  
10 FINDING AND WOULD FORCE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. AND WE WERE  
11 ASSURED THAT THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN AND THOSE USES WOULD GO TO A  
12 PERMITTED USE CATEGORY, WHICH THEY DID FROM EVIDENCE OF YOUR  
13 OWN DOCUMENT AND THE CHANGE WAS IN THE DOCUMENT WHEN IT WAS  
14 DRAFTED. THE SECOND THING IS, I'M PROBABLY WHAT'S CONSIDERED  
15 WHAT'S LEFT OF THE DEVELOPERS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
16 BECAUSE I HAVE TWO PROJECTS THAT WERE APPROVED BY MY FATHER IN  
17 '88 AND 1990. I'VE NEVER ASKED FOR ANY CHANGE-- I ASKED FOR A  
18 CHANGE TO MAKE THOSE PROJECTS BETTER FOR A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR  
19 AND OPENED UP A CAN OF WORMS THAT CAUSED ME TROUBLE THAT WAS  
20 BEYOND BELIEF. MY EQUESTRIAN CENTER HAS BEEN CLOSED DOWN TO  
21 BOARDERS OVER ISSUES WHERE NO ONE WOULD PROCESS ANY OTHER  
22 PLANS THROUGH ME. BUT THE REAL ISSUE IS THE DEVELOPERS ARE  
23 GONE. THE GUYS THAT ARE LEFT ARE GUYS LIKE ME THAT WENT TO  
24 ROUND MEADOW AND A. E. WRIGHT AND AGOURA HIGH AND HAVE LIVED  
25 THERE LONGER THAN ANY OF THEM AND THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE RUINED



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1 THE RIDGELINES ARE THE ONES IN THESE CITIES WHO ARE ALREADY  
2 HERE SCREAMING ABOUT HOW NO MORE SHOULD BE RUINED BECAUSE  
3 THEY'RE ALREADY LIVING ON A RIDGELINE IN A SUBDIVISION THAT  
4 WAS APPROVED. THE REALITY IS, WE'RE BUILDING HOUSE ON 20, 40,  
5 HUNDRED, 100-ACRE PARCELS NOW AND IT'S ONE HOUSE, AN  
6 EQUESTRIAN LIFESTYLE. THEY'VE DONE WHAT WAS DONE TO THE  
7 RIDGELINE BEFORE WE EVER GOT TO THIS POINT AND NOW THEY'RE IN  
8 CITIES SAYING, IMPROVE MY BACKYARD AT THE TAXPAYERS' COST.  
9 THAT'S A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MADE FOR EVERYONE IN THE  
10 AREA, NOT JUST...

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU CAN WRAP IT UP.

13

14 **BRIAN BOUDREAU:** ...NOT JUST A NATIONAL RECREATION-- A NATIONAL  
15 BIGGER BACKYARD FOR THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THAT AREA.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

18

19 **BRIAN BOUDREAU:** THAT'S ALL I HAD TO SAY. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE  
20 ]

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PLEASE. [ GAVEL ]

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

25



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1    **LYNN BROWN:** HELLO, I'M LYNN BROWN. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME  
2    TO SPEAK. I AM THE DEPUTY NATIONAL TRAIL COORDINATOR FOR  
3    EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, INC. I AM NOT GOING TO BE REDUNDANT IN  
4    TRYING TO ADDRESS THE MORE DELICATE ISSUES HERE. I THINK  
5    THERE'S A LOT OF WORTHY CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORTH  
6    BY BOTH SIDES. EVERYONE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
7    USE. MY CONCERN IS, HAVING WATCHED ZONING BATTLES LIKE THIS IN  
8    THE PAST, IS THAT SOMEONE CALLED THIS WORD PLAY AND I THINK OF  
9    THIS AS WORD PLAY ON ROLLER SKATES BECAUSE THIS IS A LEVEL OF  
10   WORD PLAY THAT CAN BE USED IN THE LONG TERM, NOT THE  
11   SHORTSIGHTED SECTION BUT IN THE LONG TERM. THIS IS A WONDERFUL  
12   TEMPLATE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HORSE KEEPING FOR THE MIDDLE  
13   CLASS AND THE LOWER MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE WHO WILL BE COMING  
14   INTO THIS AREA, THE SINGLE PERSON, GUYS. AS SOMEONE HAS SAID,  
15   THE PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY WEALTHY ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO  
16   THROUGH THE VERY EXPENSIVE C.U.P. PROCESS AND GO AHEAD AND DO  
17   WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AND YOU'LL GET YOUR MANSIONS, ANYWAY. I  
18   HATE TO SEE AND MY CONCERN IS, TO SEE THE LOSS OF THE  
19   HISTORICAL USE OF HORSE KEEPING AND HORSE RIDING IN THIS AREA  
20   THAT'S BEEN THERE FOR SO MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY YEARS. THANK  
21   YOU FOR LETTING ME SPEAK.

22

23   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT, GOING BACK TO THE SUPPORT  
24   SIDE, ROBERT EVREN, TARYN BRABAND AND KATHY BERKOWITZ.

25



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1   **TARYN BRABAND:** SHALL I WAIT FOR THE OTHER PEOPLE OR SHOULD I  
2   START?

3

4   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NO. GO RIGHT AHEAD.

5

6   **TARYN BRABAND:** OKAY. MY NAME IS TARYN BRABAND AND I LIVE IN  
7   MALIBU LAKE, ALSO RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT NORTH AREA PLAN.  
8   FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO COMMEND SUPERVISOR  
9   YAROSLAVSKY FOR WRITING THIS WONDERFULLY WELL-CONCEIVED AND  
10   ENVIRONMENTALLY ASTUTE MEASURE, AND I URGE ALL OF THE  
11   SUPERVISORS PLEASE TO VOTE FOR IT. YOU VOTED FOR THE NORTH  
12   AREA PLAN. THIS WILL HELP PROTECT IT, THE MOUNTAINS, FURTHER.  
13   THIS MEASURE WILL HELP TO PROTECT THE MOUNTAINS WHICH I LIVE  
14   IN FROM WANTON DEVELOPMENT AND FROM MORE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF  
15   THE BEAUTY AND THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM THAT WE  
16   LOVE. GRADING ON THE RIDGELINE NOT ONLY DESTROYS THE PRISTINE  
17   BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAINS BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S A TERRIBLE  
18   FIRE HAZARD. WE ALL KNOW THAT FIRE TRAVELS MANY TIMES FASTER  
19   UP THE MOUNTAIN THAN ON FLAT GROUND. THE MORE HOMES THERE ARE  
20   ON THE RIDGELINE, THE MORE WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO PAY WHEN  
21   THE FIRES INEVITABLY COME RAGING THROUGH AND THE HOMEOWNERS  
22   THERE WANTED TO REBUILD IT. AND SO I'M ASKING YOU TO PLEASE  
23   PROTECT THE RIDGELINES. I'M ALSO ASKING YOU, THERE ARE SO MANY  
24   PLACES NOW WHERE WE JUST DRIVE ALONG AND AREAS THAT WERE ONCE  
25   BEAUTIFUL ARE JUST FLAT, GRADED AREAS THAT ARE WAITING FOR



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1   SOMEBODY TO BUY, AND THEY'RE JUST DESTROYED. THEY'RE RUINED  
2   FOREVER. MAYBE SOMEBODY WILL BUY THEM IN FIVE, 10 YEARS, MAYBE  
3   NOT. I'M ASKING YOU, PLEASE PROTECT THESE MOUNTAINS. WE NEED  
4   IT. THANK YOU.

5

6   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MR. EVREN. ROBERT EVREN, HE  
7   STARTED TO COME UP AND THEN WHERE DID HE GO? HUH? OH, I TOLD  
8   HIM I WAS GOING TO CALL HIM NEXT. OKAY. ALL RIGHT. IS IT  
9   KATHY?

10

11   **KATHY BERKOWITZ:** KATHY, KATHY BERKOWITZ. I'M KATHY BERKOWITZ  
12   CALABASAS AND I'M A HIKER AND A RECREATIONAL USER OF THE  
13   MOUNTAINS. I HAVE HERE A LETTER FROM A HIKING GROUP THAT I  
14   BELONG TO. THERE'S 18 OF US THAT HAVE SIGNED ON TO THIS AND  
15   I'M JUST GOING TO READ SOME OF THIS TO YOU. "WE ARE THE  
16   MEMBERS OF A HIKING GROUP THAT SPENT OUR MONDAYS ENJOYING THE  
17   ARTISTRY OF OUR LOCAL MOUNTAINS. MANY IS THE TIME WE HAVE  
18   STOPPED TO ADMIRE THE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS FROM BACKBONE TRAIL,  
19   STUNT ROAD, AHMANSON RANCH, THE CALABASAS HIGHWAY AND MORE. WE  
20   IMPLORE YOU TO PASS THE SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE AND GRADING  
21   ORDINANCE AND PREVENT THESE VIEWS FROM BECOMING EYESORES. WE  
22   ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF THE WORK THAT THE STATE HAS DONE TO  
23   SECURE THESE OPEN SPACES AND MAINTAIN THE TRAIL SYSTEMS WITHIN  
24   THE SANTA MONICAS. IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS WASTE TO ALLOW THE  
25   DEVELOPERS TO COME IN AND RAVAGE THE MOUNTAIN TOPS AND SPOIL A





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1 TRULY OUTSTANDING HIKING EXPERIENCE. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE  
2 THOUGHTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE HIKING GROUP." THANK YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MARY WIESBROCK. IS MARY STILL  
5 HERE?

6

7 **MARY WIESBROCK:** TWO PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR TIME TO ME,  
8 TODD CUMMINGS AND...

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NO. SORRY. JUST GO AHEAD WITH YOUR TWO  
11 MINUTES. YOU'VE GOT TWO MINUTES. OKAY? THANK YOU.

12

13 **MARY WIESBROCK:** I'M PASSING OUT A MAP. I'D LIKE ALL YOU  
14 SUPERVISORS TO PLEASE LOOK AT THE MAP. IT SHOWS IN YELLOW THE  
15 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA. ALL YOU  
16 SUPERVISORS HAVE PEOPLE IN YOUR DISTRICTS THAT USE THESE  
17 MOUNTAINS AS A URBAN AREA, A RELIEF FROM THE URBAN  
18 ENVIRONMENT. THEY GO TO THE MOUNTAINS AS BEACHGOERS, THEY GO  
19 TO THE MOUNTAINS TO HIKE, TO BIKE AND TO HORSEBACK RIDE. THIS  
20 IS A NATIONAL PARK PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW AND PROTECTED BY  
21 STATE LAW. I, MARY WIESBROCK, REPRESENTING SAVE OPEN SPACE  
22 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, FIRST THANKS YOU FOR HELPING TO  
23 PROTECT AHMANSON RANCH. IT WAS YOUR SUPPORT THAT WE WERE ABLE  
24 TO PROTECT THE HEADWATERS, A CRITICAL HEADWATERS IN THE SANTA  
25 MONICA MOUNTAINS. I ASK YOU TODAY TO SUPPORT THIS RIDGELINE



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1 ORDINANCE. WHY WOULD YOU NOT SUPPORT THIS? IT PROTECTS THE  
2 RECREATION AREA THAT ALL YOUR CONSTITUENTS USE. IT ALSO  
3 IMPLEMENTS THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. THIS  
4 PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. I WILL PUT  
5 IT INTO THE RECORD. THIS PLAN ASKS THAT YOU PROTECT NATURAL  
6 LAND FORMS, THAT YOU PROTECT SCENIC RIDGELINES, IT SERVES TO  
7 PROTECT THE BEAUTY OF THIS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. I'D LIKE  
8 TO READ SOME INFORMATION FROM THE FEDERAL LAW THAT ESTABLISHED  
9 THIS AREA, AND WE HOPE THAT MIKE ANTONOVICH'S DISTRICT, THAT  
10 THIS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SANTA  
11 CLARITA AREA AND WE HOPE YOU SUPPORT CONGRESSMAN DAVE DRIER  
12 AND ADAM SHIFT IN THEIR BILL TO MAKE THIS A LARGER NATIONAL  
13 RECREATION AREA. IT IS IN THE COMMITTEE NOW IN THE FEDERAL  
14 GOVERNMENT. PUBLIC LAW 95625, CONGRESS FINDS THAT THE SANTA  
15 MONICA MOUNTAINS, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT SCENIC, RECREATIONAL,  
16 EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC  
17 HEALTH BENEFITS. YES. YOU TALK ABOUT THE HEALTH CONCERNS.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

20

21 **MARY WIESBROCK:** IT'S AN AIR SHED AND IT HELPS THE AIR QUALITY  
22 OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. DO YOU WANT TO WRAP IT UP, PLEASE?  
25 THANK YOU.



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1

2 **MARY WIESBROCK:** SO, IN SUMMARY, I'LL TURN THIS INTO THE  
3 RECORD, THE TWO LAWS, CONGRESS AND STATE LAW THAT ESTABLISHED  
4 THIS BEAUTIFUL SCENIC AREA FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS IN ALL YOUR  
5 DISTRICTS. THANK YOU.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. GOING BACK TO THE OTHER  
8 SIDE NOW, ROBIN GRENSLY MITCHELL, TY BREITMAN AND JOHN  
9 RHDZINSKI. THE THREE OF YOU HERE? COME FORWARD, PLEASE. I NEED  
10 TO CALL OTHERS IF WE DON'T HAVE THREE SPEAKERS. WE'VE GOT ALL  
11 THREE. OKAY. GO AHEAD. GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR SEAT. GO AHEAD  
12 AND START.

13

14 **TY BREITMAN:** OKAY. MY NAME IS TY BREITMAN. I RECENTLY  
15 PURCHASED A PROPERTY IN AGOURA MAYBE ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF  
16 AGO. I COME TO ADDRESS-- I'M ACTUALLY NOT GOING TO BE IMPACTED  
17 BY THIS ORDINANCE BUT FOR ONE, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, IT'S  
18 GOING TO TAKE A HELL OF A LOT LONGER THAN 11 MONTHS JUST FOR A  
19 NORMAL PERMIT. IT TOOK ME SEVEN MONTHS TO GET OUT OF REGIONAL  
20 PLANNING. TWO, THESE THINGS NEED TO BE SEPARATED: RIDGELINE,  
21 GRADING. GRADING, IF YOU TAKE A HUNDRED FOOT BY A HUNDRED FOOT  
22 PAD, YOU HAVE 10,000 SQUARE FEET. IN ORDER TO BUILD A HOME,  
23 YOU HAVE TO REMOVE AND RE-COMPACT. OKAY. THAT DIRT IS GOING  
24 BACK INTO THE SAME HOLE THAT IT CAME OUT OF. OKAY. YOU TAKE  
25 THAT 5,000 CUBIC FEET, YOU MOVE IT, YOU PUT THAT 5,000 CUBIC



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1 FEET BACK. I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE REMOVE AND RE-COMPACTION-- BY  
2 THE WAY, I'M A BUILDER-- THAT IS LESS THAN A FIVE-FOOT REMOVAL  
3 AND RE-COMPACTION. THAT'S LESS THAN A FIVE-FOOT DEPTH. SO, NO  
4 MATTER WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE GOING OVER YOUR 5,000 CUBIC  
5 YARDS. PEOPLE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT THESE NUMBERS THAT THEY'RE  
6 GETTING ABOUT WHAT-- YOU KNOW, HOW MANY-- WHAT PERCENTAGE WAS  
7 OVER 5,000 CUBIC YARDS IS TAKEN FROM A LONG TIME AGO WHERE  
8 THEIR PROPERTIES WERE AVAILABLE THAT WERE SMALLER BUT NOW YOU  
9 HAVE LARGER PROPERTIES AND THERE'S NOT MANY LEFT. IF YOU WENT  
10 FROM NOW UNTIL WHENEVER, YOU'RE GOING TO NOTICE THAT ALMOST  
11 99% OF THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO NEED A CONDITIONAL USE  
12 PERMIT. THAT IS AN UNFAIR BURDEN ON THE CONSTITUENTS THAT ARE  
13 IN YOUR AREA THAT ARE VOTING FOR YOU GUYS THAT LIVE THERE.  
14 WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT BUILDING IN THE PARKS, WE'RE TALKING  
15 ABOUT BUILDING ON OUR PROPERTY THAT WE'VE OWNED, THAT WE'VE  
16 PUT OUR LIFE INTO. WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEPARATE THINGS AND  
17 MAKE IT FAIR FOR ALL, NOT ONLY THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS, WHICH I  
18 AM ONE BUT FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN  
19 PROPERTIES. THAT'S ALL.

20

21 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ] [ GAVEL  
22 ]

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU YES. GO AHEAD. EITHER ONE. OKAY.

25



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1    **ROBIN GRENSLEY MITCHELL:** MY NAME IS ROBIN GRENSLEY MITCHELL  
2    AND I HAVE ORION RANCH STAR ROUTE AT 24466 WEST MULHOLLAND  
3    HIGHWAY. HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,  
4    THE PROPOSED GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE IS ONE MORE  
5    ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS OF THEIR RIGHTS.  
6    DECADE BY DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PUNISH THOSE WHO OWN  
7    PROPERTY IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. WHEN OUR FAMILY  
8    PURCHASED ORION RANCH ON THE RURAL STAR ROUTE OVER 62 YEARS  
9    AGO, THERE WAS A ROAD WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN 1904  
10    CONNECTING COLD CREEK CANYON TO CALABASAS PEAK. THE  
11    HOMESTEADERS OF OUR PROPERTY, THE ALROL FAMILY, BUILT THEIR  
12    CABIN ON THE RIDGELINE AND ALSO THIS ROAD. THERE IS NO COUNTY  
13    PERMIT FOR IT AS THE COUNTY WAS NOT CONCERNED AT THAT TIME  
14    WITH ROADS OR BUILDING PERMITS BUT WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD RETAIN  
15    THE RIGHT TO BUILD IN THAT LOCATION SHOULD WE SO DESIRE. OVER  
16    THE YEARS, OUR RIGHTS TO OUR PROPERTY HAVE BEEN CHIPPED AWAY.  
17    THE HUNTING SEASON ORIGINALLY WAS WHENEVER ONE GOT HUNGRY. OUR  
18    FAMILY HAD A SHOOTING RANGE FOR BOTH PISTOL AND RIFLE  
19    PRACTICE. THAT WAS OUTLAWED AND SO THERE WENT THAT RIGHT. THE  
20    ENTRANCE TO OUR PROPERTY'S FRONTAGE WAS ON COLD CREEK DRY  
21    CANYON ROAD BUT THEN IT WAS DECREED THAT MULHOLLAND SHOULD BE  
22    CONSTRUCTED THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF OUR LOWER FIELD, PLACING  
23    SEVERAL ACRES OF OUR PROPERTY ON THE WEST OF MULHOLLAND WITH  
24    THE HOUSE AND REMAINING ACREAGE TO THE EAST. THUS OUR STAR  
25    ROUTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGED TO A MULHOLLAND NUMBER. HOWEVER,



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1 THE MOST DEVASTATING BLOW TO THE ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT OF  
2 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF WATER. AS  
3 LONG AS ALL RESIDENTS IN THE MOUNTAINS INDEPENDENTLY PROVIDED  
4 FOR THEIR OWN WATER NEEDS FROM THEIR OWN PROPERTY, THE  
5 DELICATE BALANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT THREATENED. BUT  
6 WHEN IMPORTED WATER WAS INTRODUCED, IT PRODUCED A MASSIVE  
7 AVALANCHE OF HUMANITY WHICH TUMBLED INTO THE MOUNTAINS,  
8 RUINING THE ECOLOGY. WE STILL HAVE OUR WATER SOURCE FROM A  
9 DISTANCE BUT WE WERE REQUIRED TO SEPARATE IT FROM OUR HOUSE.  
10 ANYONE WHO CANNOT SUPPLY THEIR NEEDS FOR WATER FROM THEIR OWN  
11 PROPERTY IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MOUNTAINS  
12 BUT WE ARE BEING PERSECUTED WITH THIS GRADING AND RIDGELINE  
13 ORDINANCE FOR THE SINS OF THOSE CULPRITS WHO BROUGHT ALIEN  
14 WATER INTO THE AREA. IF YOU TOLERATE MUNICIPAL WATER  
15 DISTRICTS, YOU SHOULD GIVE US A BREAK ALSO AND VOTE "NO" ON  
16 THIS RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. THANK YOU.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. JOHN AND THEN I'M GOING TO CALL  
19 FROM THE OTHER SIDE, I'M GOING TO ASK JESS THOMAS TO COME  
20 FORWARD, PAUL CULBORG AND TOBY KESLER.

21

22 **JOHN RHDZINSKI:** THANK YOU. GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS JOHN  
23 RHDZINSKI. I LIVE AT 2216 STREET IN SEAL BEACH. I'VE OWNED  
24 PROPERTY IN TOPANGA CANYON SINCE 1974. YOU HEAR THIS MATTER  
25 TODAY AND SIT IN EQUITY TO CREATE LAW. THE ORDINANCE YOU SEEK





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1 TO CREATE TODAY IS NOT FAIR AND IT IS NOT EQUITABLE WITH  
2 REGARD TO RIDGELINES. IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, YOUR HONORABLE  
3 BODY APPROVED THE CASTAIC C.S.D. AND, WITHIN IT, A SIGNIFICANT  
4 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE, A CLEAR, CONCISE AND EQUITABLE ORDINANCE.  
5 THE DEFINITION OF A SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE IS AS FOLLOWS:  
6 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES ARE THOSE THAT VISUALLY DOMINATE THE  
7 LANDSCAPE OF THE AREA AND ADJACENT COMMUNITIES AND ARE  
8 CHARACTERIZED BY THEIR SILHOUETTING AGAINST THE SKY WHEN  
9 VIEWED FROM SUCH COMMUNITIES AND FROM PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND  
10 VISTA POINTS IN THE AREA." IT IS NOT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FED  
11 WHICH IS FROG, TELLING US WHAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING  
12 COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED ARE SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES MERELY  
13 MEET THE CRITERIA OF THE STAFF THAT BELIEVES THEY ARE  
14 CONSISTENT. THAT WAS MR. CARODINE'S WORDS TODAY. WE ASK ONLY  
15 FOR EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW YOU NOW CONSIDER TO IMPOSE.  
16 THE NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE OWNERS AFFECTED, IT IS NOT  
17 517 WHEN YOU DEDUCT THE PARCELS OWNED BY THE MOUNTAINS  
18 RESTORATION TRUST, CONSERVANCY STATE PARK AND ALREADY  
19 DEDICATED OPEN SPACE. THAT NUMBER SHRINKS TO 212. NOW DEDUCT  
20 BELOW MINIMUM SIZED LOTS AND WE'RE DOWN TO LESS THAN 140.  
21 THESE ARE THE LAND INTERESTS SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY SPEAKS OF.  
22 MOST OF US ARE HERE OR HAVE PROTESTED BY MAIL OR E-MAIL. WE  
23 HAVEN'T ACCEPTED THE DISINGENUOUS AND OFT TIMES RIDICULOUS  
24 OFFERS MADE BY THE CONSERVANCY AND M.R.T. TO PURCHASE OUR  
25 PROPERTY. WE HAVE PAID OUR TAXES AND OUR WATER BOND



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1 ASSESSMENTS AND SO MANY OTHER ASSESSMENTS FAITHFULLY. IF ALL  
2 OF THE LOTS WERE FULLY BUILT OUT THAT ARE REPRESENTED HERE  
3 TODAY, THEY WOULD REPRESENT NO MORE THAN 200 PROPERTIES WITH A  
4 TAX BASE OF 500 TO 800 MILLION DOLLARS. THERE ARE NO  
5 DEVELOPERS HERE TODAY, NO LARWIN HOLMES, NO D. R. HORTON, NO  
6 NEWHALL LAND AND FARMING, NO AHMANSON RANCH TYPES. A COUPLE OF  
7 PEOPLE WHO HAVE TRAILED THE CONSERVANCY AND M.R.T. AND OFFERED  
8 SOME PROPERTY OWNERS MORE THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS HAVE AND NOW  
9 HAVE SUBSTANTIAL HOLDINGS. THE REST OF US ARE HARDWORKING  
10 PEOPLE WHO INVESTED IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY REAL ESTATE, MANY  
11 LONG AGO WITH THE PROMISE OF BUILDING A HOME WITH A VIEW FOR  
12 RETIREMENT OR TO GIVE TO OUR CHILDREN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY  
13 "NO" TO SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY TODAY, WHO SO VIGOROUSLY  
14 SUPPORTS THIS ORDINANCE. SAY "NO" TODAY, YES, ACCEPTED THIS  
15 DRAFT BACK FOR AN EQUITABLE REVISION. PLEASE DON'T RUSH TO  
16 JUDGMENT.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ] [ GAVEL ]

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JESS THOMAS, PAUL CULBORG AND TOBY KESLER.  
21 ARE THEY HERE?

22

23 **PAUL CULBORG:** I'LL JUST JUMP IN. PAUL CULBORG, LOBO CANYON, A  
24 RESIDENT OF 28 YEARS. I'M IN SUPPORT OF THIS RIDGELINE  
25 ORDINANCE. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT. DID



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1 YOU KNOW THAT THE COMBINATION OF THE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
2 AND THE STATE PARKS HAVE VISITORS EQUALING 33 MILLION ANNUALLY  
3 AND THAT YOSEMITE PARK, WHICH IS THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF THE  
4 NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM, GETS 13 MILLION VISITORS PER YEAR? IF  
5 YOU ADD THIS UP AND FIGURE THAT EACH VISIT GENERATES \$5,  
6 YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ALMOST \$200 MILLION WITHOUT THE  
7 ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES, RENTAL OF HORSES,  
8 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND I THINK THAT IF WE, IN FACT, DO  
9 NOT PASS THIS ORDINANCE, WE STAND THE RISK OF DAMAGING THE  
10 VIEWSHED, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO ALL OF THOSE VISITORS AND  
11 IT WILL GREATLY DAMAGE FOR THE FUTURE ALL THOSE VISITORS FROM  
12 AROUND THE WORLD, BY THE WAY, AND THAT MONEY WILL GO  
13 ELSEWHERE. I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT, I'M AFRAID I HAVE ONLY ONE  
14 PHOTOGRAPH TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM  
15 TRAILS IN LOBO CANYON.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. JESS OR TOBY.

18

19 **JESS THOMAS:** YES. JESS THOMAS. JUST A RECENT PAST PRESIDENT OF  
20 THE LOS VERDES HOMEOWNERS FEDERATION, READING A LETTER FROM  
21 OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT, STEVE HESS, WHO IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP  
22 IN BOSTON TODAY, UNFORTUNATELY. HOPEFULLY, HE'S GETTING IN A  
23 LITTLE LOBSTER AND BASEBALL TIME AS WELL WHILE HE'S THERE.  
24 "DEAR SUPERVISORS, THE LOS VERDES HOMEOWNERS FEDERATION  
25 DELEGATES REPRESENT OVER 2,000 PROPERTY OWNERS AND VOTERS IN



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1 THE LOS VIRGENES AREA AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
2 PARTICIPATE IN THIS WONDERFUL DEMOCRATIC PLANNING PROCESS. THE  
3 FEDERATION WISHES TO STATE OUR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT TO THE  
4 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
5 COMMUNITY DESIGN STANDARDS REGARDING GRADING AND RIDGELINE  
6 PROTECTION. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL  
7 CONSIDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ON OCTOBER 26TH AND POSSIBLY  
8 AT FUTURE DATES. THE FEDERATION FEELS THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE  
9 NORTH AREA PLAN REPRESENTED A MILESTONE EVENT IN PLANNING FOR  
10 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. THE  
11 PROCESS OF CREATING A NORTH AREA PLAN WAS, IN MANY WAYS, AS  
12 REVOLUTIONARY AS THE PLAN ITSELF. VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
13 AGENCIES, LOCAL INTERESTS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS CAME  
14 TOGETHER TO CRAFT A GOVERNING DOCUMENT WHICH WILL SERVE TO  
15 PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS PRIVATE OWNERSHIP  
16 INTERESTS WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY. NOW AS WE MOVE INTO THE  
17 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PHASE OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN, IT IS  
18 IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE GOALS FIRST  
19 ESTABLISHED IN THE CREATION OF THE PLAN. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT  
20 THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REMAIN TRUE TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
21 OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN, WHICH IS TO LET THE LAND DICTATE THE  
22 TYPE AND INTENSITY OF USE. THE FEDERATION FEELS THAT THE  
23 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS WHICH CREATE THE GRADING  
24 CRITERIA AND RIDGELINE SETBACK REQUIREMENTS IN THE NORTH AREA  
25 PLAN AFFECTED AREA ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE



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1 OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN. FOR A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE CURRENT  
2 ORDINANCE, THE DELEGATES OF THE FEDERATION, ALL CITIZENS...

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

5

6 **PAUL CULBORG:** ...OF THE AREA GOVERNED BY THE NORTH AREA PLAN  
7 STRONGLY URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR ADOPTION OF THE GRADING,  
8 RIDGELINE AND ORDINANCE PLAN AS IT IS WRITTEN WITHOUT FURTHER  
9 DELAY.

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. THANK YOU. MR. KESLER THEN I'M GOING  
12 TO CALL-- THE NEXT THREE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE WOULD BE DON  
13 SCHMIDT, SOKWANG CHO AND BRYAN HANCOCK.

14

15 **TOBY KESLER:** MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, I'M TOBY KESLER. I'M HERE  
16 REPRESENTING TOPANGA ASSOCIATION FOR A SCENIC COMMUNITY AND  
17 THE OLD TOPANGA HOMEOWNERS. I'M STRUCK BY THE RECURRING THEME  
18 OF THE OPPONENTS. IT'S ALL ME, ME, ME, ME, ME. THIS IS NOT  
19 ABOUT ME, THIS IS NOT ABOUT THEM, THIS IS ABOUT EVERYBODY.  
20 WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RIDGELINES THAT ARE VISIBLE FOR MILES AND  
21 MILES. I LIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT HAPPENS TO BE IN THE CITY OF  
22 CALABASAS. IT'S A MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY THAT SITS JUST BELOW THE  
23 TOPOGRAPHIC CREST. WE USED TO LIVE IN CALABASAS, BUT THAT  
24 TOPOGRAPHIC CREST IS PART OF THE COUNTY. PREVIOUS SPEAKERS  
25 HAVE BIG INTERESTS IN THAT PROPERTY. THEY WANT TO PUT A 28-



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1 FOOT WIDE PARKWAY UP THERE CALLED THE CALABASAS PEAK MOTORWAY.  
2 THIS GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING THAT YOU DID AND WORKED FOR IN  
3 THE NORTH AREA PLAN AND IT'S JUST SIMPLY NOT CONSISTENT WITH  
4 WHAT THIS BOARD HAS DONE AND WHAT THIS COMMUNITY WORKED SO  
5 HARD TO ACCOMPLISH. AND I'D LIKE TO SUBMIT FOR THE RECORD THE  
6 LETTER FROM THE OLD TOPANGA HOMEOWNERS-- I MEAN FROM T.A.S.C.,  
7 WHICH WAS NOT...

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** STEVE, COULD YOU GET THAT FOR US, PLEASE?  
10 THANK YOU. OKAY. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. MR. SCHMIDT, SOKWANG  
11 CHO, BRYAN HANCOCK. ALSO, DEBORAH MALINOSKE IS IN FAVOR OF  
12 NUMBER 11 BUT PASSED ON SPEAKING. WE THANK YOU, DEBORAH.

13

14 **DON SCHMIDT:** MR. CHAIR, BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE CLOCK, I  
15 UNDERSTAND YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL TIME. KAITLAN  
16 NOVOTNY AND MR. CHRIS FROST GAVE ME THEIR TIME. ALSO, JUST ONE  
17 MINUTE EACH FOR THEIR ASSIGNED TIME, AND I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF  
18 SEVERAL HUNDRED PROPERTY OWNERS.

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NO.

21

22 **DON SCHMIDT:** NO? THEN I'LL TALK VERY FAST.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I APOLOGIZE BUT WE HAD A LITTLE PROBLEM  
25 EARLIER.





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1

2 **DON SCHMIDT:** MY NAME IS DON SCHMIDT. MY OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN  
3 MALIBU. I REPRESENT SEVERAL HUNDRED PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE  
4 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. YOUR HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE. THERE  
5 IS A NEED BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS WELL  
6 WRITTEN. YOU ARE TRYING TO REDESIGN THE WHEEL AND WE ARE DOING  
7 AN EXCEEDINGLY POOR JOB OF IT. I DO NOT CONCUR BY THE  
8 ASSERTIONS THAT THIS IS SORT OF MIDDLE OF THE ROAD IN REGARDS  
9 TO THE JURISDICTIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR GRADING LIMITATIONS AND  
10 RIDGELINE DEVELOPMENT IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. THAT'S JUST  
11 SIMPLY NOT THE CASE. THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
12 STANDARDS DO NOT RISE TO THIS LEVEL, THIS ONEROUS LEVEL THAT  
13 YOU'RE PROPOSING. IN FACT, WHY ARE WE REINVENTING THE WHEEL?  
14 WE HAVE A 1986 COASTAL LAND USE PLAN, SUPERVISORS. THAT LAND  
15 USE PLAN DOES, IN FACT, EXEMPT OFFSITE ACCESS ROADS, IT DOES  
16 PROVIDE A LIMIT OF 300 FOOT FOR THE ONSITE ACCESS ROAD. THE  
17 CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION, IN THEIR MOST ONEROUS ACTIONS  
18 OF LATE, WERE UPON THERE TRYING TO DESIGNATE PROPERTIES AS  
19 E.S.H.A. OR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT AREA. AND, BY  
20 THE WAY, THIS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND SPECIFICALLY SUPERVISOR  
21 YAROSLAVSKY, HAS LED THE CHARGE AGAINST THIS RIDICULOUS  
22 E.S.H.A. DESIGNATION WITHIN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. BUT  
23 EVEN IN THAT E.S.H.A. AREA, THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
24 DOES NOT APPLY THE LIMITATIONS ON THE PAD SIZE TO THE ACCESS  
25 ROAD OR TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNAROUND. IN REGARDS TO THE



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1 CITY OF MALIBU, THAT IS NOT A LEGITIMATE ANALOGY IN THAT THEY  
2 ARE DOWN ON TERRACE AND, IN FACT, THE CITY OF MALIBU ALSO  
3 LIMITS THE EMERGENCY ACCESS THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE  
4 THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS GRADING LIMITATION. IN REGARDS TO THE  
5 FIRE DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY, I'M JUST-- I'M COMPLETELY  
6 FLUMMOXED. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S GOING ON HERE IS  
7 THERE'S A VISION THAT, IF WE PUSH THE DEVELOPMENT OFF THE  
8 RIDGELINE, IT WILL END UP IN SOME FLAT AREA NEXT TO A PUBLIC  
9 ROAD. IT WILL NOT. IT WILL, IN FACT, BE PUSHED DOWN ON THE  
10 STEEPER SLOPES BECAUSE MOST OF THE PROPERTIES THAT HAVE THESE  
11 RIDGELINES DO NOT EXTEND ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE PUBLIC ROADS.  
12 YOU ARE GOING TO PRECIPITATE LITERALLY SIGNIFICANT LAND FORM  
13 ALTERATION AND DEVELOPMENT ON STEEP SLOPES, WHICH IS  
14 PROHIBITED BY THIS PLAN.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. YES.

17

18 **CHO SOKWANG:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS CHO SOKWANG. I LIVE IN  
19 VAN NUYS. I HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD ACRE IN TOPANGA CANYON.  
20 BEAUTIFUL NICE VIEW OF THE RIDGE VIEW. SO I WORKING ABOUT-- I  
21 HAD BEEN ABOUT 15 YEARS. MY DREAM ABOUT THIS LAND WHEN I  
22 RETIRED, BUILD A HOUSE AND THEN LIVE THERE PEACEFULLY THE REST  
23 OF MY LIFE BUT I HEAR BOTH SIDES. MAYBE GOOD IDEA OR BAD IDEA.  
24 I HAVE ONE IDEA. YOU COULD BUY 50 FEET RIDGELINE BOTH SIDES  
25 FROM THE STATE OR FEDERAL OR WHATEVER OR COUNTY OR I COULD



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1    SELL TO YOU 10 ACRE. I GIVE UP MY DREAM. SO BOTH SIDES BE  
2    HAPPY. ONE SIDE, WILDLIFE HABITAT, THOSE PEOPLE MAYBE SAVE  
3    THOSE RIDGELINES. SO, PLEASE CONSIDER SAVE THOSE BOTH SIDES.  
4    THANK YOU.

5

6    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MR. HANCOCK, BEFORE YOU SPEAK,  
7    THE NEXT THROUGH ON THE FAVOR SIDE WOULD BE MARY ELLEN STROTE,  
8    LIZ FRENCH AND JON FRENCH.

9

10    **BRIAN HANCOCK:** MY NAME IS BRIAN HANCOCK, I'M A CIVIL ENGINEER  
11    IN THE AREA. OUR CIVIL ENGINEERING FIRM HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN  
12    DESIGNING GRADING PLANS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS  
13    IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, DUE TO THE  
14    TERRAIN AND THE TYPICAL DISTANCE FROM EXISTING PUBLIC ROADS,  
15    ALL THE SINGLE-FAMILY PROJECTS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
16    THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON WOULD REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE  
17    PERMIT UNDER THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. WHEN WE DESIGN OUR  
18    PROJECTS, WE TRY TO MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF GRADING AS MUCH AS  
19    POSSIBLE AND, IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, OUR DESIGN USUALLY  
20    INVOLVES USING PORTIONS OF THE SITE THAT ARE FLATTER IN SLOPE  
21    LOCATED ON STABLE TERRAIN AND WHICH UTILIZES EXISTING ACCESS  
22    OR DIRT ROADS. IN GENERAL, THESE AREAS THAT ARE MOST SUITABLE  
23    FOR GRADING AND CONSTRUCTION ARE TYPICALLY FOUND CLOSE TO THE  
24    PEAKS AND RIDGES ON OUR SITES. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE  
25    NUMEROUS WAYS TO PROTECT AN UNOBSTRUCTED SKYLINE, WHICH THE



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1 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE PROMOTES, WHILE STILL DESIGNING NEAR THE  
2 PEAKS AND RIDGES. IN ADDITION, THE 50-FOOT ELEVATION LIMIT IN  
3 THE PROPOSED RIDGELINE ORDINANCE WILL FORCE THESE PROJECTS  
4 INTO AREAS THAT ARE MORE HEAVILY VEGETATED AND LESS DESIRABLE  
5 FOR CONSTRUCTION. IT CAN INVOLVE MORE GRADING AND LAND FORM  
6 ALTERATION THAN OCCURS NOW WITHOUT THE ORDINANCE. BASED ON OUR  
7 EXPERIENCE, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE WILL PRODUCE AN  
8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN TERMS OF GRADING, LAND FORM ALTERATION  
9 AND VEGETATION REMOVAL THAT DOES NOT OCCUR UNDER THE EXISTING  
10 SYSTEM. AND, LASTLY, I WANT TO SAY I UNDERSTAND THE INTENTION  
11 OF THE ORDINANCE AND I DON'T DISAGREE WITH THAT BUT I FEEL THE  
12 WAY THAT IT IS WRITTEN IS NOT PRACTICAL AND SHOULD BE OPPOSED.  
13 THANK YOU.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. THANK ALL OF YOU. MARY ELLEN  
16 STROTE, LIZ FRENCH, AND JOHN FRENCH.

17

18 **MARY ELLEN STROTE:** MARY ELLEN STROTE, 475 STUNT ROAD IN  
19 CALABASAS. I SPEAK FOR THE COLD CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL, SOME  
20 250 FAMILIES WHO LIVE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS BETWEEN  
21 THE CITY OF CALABASAS AND MONTE NIDO. WE DO NOT FEAR THAT THIS  
22 ORDINANCE WILL LIMIT DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PROPERTY. IN FACT, WE  
23 KNOW THAT IT WILL INCREASE OUR PROPERTY VALUES WHILE  
24 PROTECTING VIEWSHEDS FOR PUBLIC USE. WE URGE YOU TO VOTE YES  
25 ON THIS THOUGHTFUL AND WELL-CONSIDERED ORDINANCE. THANK YOU.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

3

4 **ELIZABETH FRENCH:** ELIZABETH FRENCH. I'M FROM MALIBU. 900  
5 LATIGO CANYON ROAD. GOOD MORNING. I'LL TRY TO BE BRIEF. I'M A  
6 RESIDENT IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. MY LOTS TOTAL 20  
7 ACRES. ONE IS DEVELOPED. THE OTHER VACANT. THEY WILL BOTH BE  
8 AFFECTED BY THE NEW RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. I AM GRATEFUL TO THE  
9 PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THEIR CONTINUING  
10 SUPPORT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL URBAN PARK. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR  
11 CONTINUED GENEROSITY, WHETHER IT IS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO  
12 PURCHASE NEW OPEN SPACE OR THEIR CONTINUED INVESTMENTS IN THE  
13 ROADS, FIRE SAFETY AND OTHER MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES THAT WE  
14 BENEFIT FROM RESIDENTS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL BUT CHALLENGING  
15 MOUNTAIN REGION. MY FAMILY BENEFITS FROM YOUR GENEROSITY ON A  
16 DAILY BASIS. MY CHILDREN ARE SURROUNDED BY A NATURAL BEAUTY  
17 THAT MOST OF THE CHILDREN OF LOS ANGELES ONLY SEE DURING A  
18 SCHOOL FIELD TRIP OR OCCASIONAL FAMILY OUTING. ON THE OTHER  
19 HAND, I'M EMBARRASSED BY THE SELFISHNESS OF RESIDENTS IN THE  
20 AREA WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ADDED LAYER OF REVIEW OR EXPENSE  
21 FOR A TENNIS COURT, GUEST HOUSE OR HORSE ARENA. I'VE BEEN  
22 BOMBARDED, AS HAVE MY NEIGHBORS WITH MISLEADING MAILERS, CALLS  
23 AND EMAILS FROM THE OPPONENTS ABOUT THIS ORDINANCE. I HAVE  
24 ABOUT THREE OF THEM WITH ME. I THINK THERE'S ALSO A TV SHOW  
25 THAT'S BEEN ON THE LOCAL CABLE ACCESS CHANNEL. THESE SORT OF



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1 HAVE MY CAKE, BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS AND EAT IT TOO, EXCESSIVELY  
2 GRADE A PORTION OF THEM TO HAVE MY OWN LITTLE PLAINS IS THE  
3 HEIGHT OF ARROGANCE. THIS IS THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, NOT  
4 DISNEYLAND. I'D ALSO JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT, STAFF, AS OPPOSED  
5 TO WHO SOME PEOPLE WERE SAYING, WAS VERY HELPFUL. I ASKED  
6 THEM. WE JUST BOUGHT OUR SECOND LOT AND I ASKED STAFF IF WE  
7 COULD FIND OUT WHERE THE RIDGELINE WAS ON THAT. I HAD AN  
8 ANSWER, AN ACTUAL MAP THAT I COULD TAKE TO MY SURVEYOR, WITHIN  
9 24 HOURS. AND THEY WERE JUST GREAT. THANK YOU.

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. NEXT?

12

13 **JOHN FRENCH:** I HAVE A SUPPORTING PAGE HERE. MY NAME IS JOHN  
14 FRENCH. I RESIDE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS AND AM THE  
15 OWNER OF TWO PARCELS DESIGNATED SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE. MY  
16 PROPERTY IS ALSO A HORSE PROPERTY. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE  
17 ORDINANCE, REALLY TO PROTECT THE VIEWS FOR EVERYONE AND TO  
18 PROTECT THE SANTA MONICAS AS A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.  
19 WITHOUT THIS ORDINANCE, DEVELOPERS WILL BUILD HOMES THAT RUIN  
20 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES FOR ALL OF US. LET'S CONSIDER THE  
21 PROJECT. THE PAGE I HANDED OUT IS AN EXAMPLE. LET'S CONSIDER A  
22 PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDER WAY AT 340 CANAAN DUNE ROAD. THIS IS  
23 NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF CANAAN AND MULHOLLAND. OVER THE LAST  
24 YEAR, I HAVE WATCHED A DEVELOPER GRADE ALMOST A HALF-MILE LONG  
25 DRIVEWAY TO A HOME SITE FOR AN 8,000 SQUARE FOOT HOME AT THE





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1 TOP OF A MOUNTAIN ON A SIGNIFICANT RIDGE. LET'S CONSIDER SOME  
2 SPECIFICS FOR THIS PROJECT. THEY DID-- THEY HAD A PERMIT FOR  
3 25,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING FOR AN ALMOST 2,000-FOOT LONG  
4 DRIVEWAY FROM CANYON ROAD TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. THEN  
5 THEY DID ADDITIONAL GRADING TO SHAVE THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN  
6 OFF TO CREATE A FLAT PAD FOR AN 8,000-SQUARE-FOOT HOME. NOW,  
7 POWER AND WATER WERE ALREADY AVAILABLE AT CANAAN AT THE BOTTOM  
8 OF THE DRIVEWAY, SO THEY, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BRING THAT ALL  
9 THE WAY TO THE TOP OF THE PAD. THE DRIVEWAY AND PAD ARE  
10 VISIBLE FOR OVER A MILE IN EACH DIRECTION FROM CANAAN ROAD,  
11 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY, ROCKY OAKS NATIONAL PARK AND MALIBU CREEK  
12 STATE PARK. THIS PROJECT IS, IN MY OPINION, OBSCENE IN ITS  
13 DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. NOW, HERE'S THE IMPORTANT  
14 THING. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THIS DEVELOPER TO CONSTRUCT A  
15 GORGEOUS, BEAUTIFUL HOME WITHOUT AFFECTING THE RIDGELINE AND  
16 WITH A FRACTION OF THE GRADING THAT WAS INVOLVED. SADLY, UNDER  
17 THE CURRENT ORDINANCES, THIS TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLETELY  
18 LEGAL. WE NEED THIS ORDINANCE THAT YOU'RE CONSIDERING TODAY TO  
19 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT. THE LOT I USED AS AN  
20 EXAMPLE IS BY NO MEANS UNIQUE. I CAN SIT FROM MY PROPERTY AND  
21 LOOK AT ANOTHER SIMILAR PROJECT AS WELL AS OTHERS UNDERWAY.  
22 WHAT IS ESPECIALLY SAD ABOUT THE PROJECT THAT I MENTIONED IS  
23 THAT THE DEVELOPER DID ALL OF THIS ON SPEC. THE PROPERTY, WITH  
24 NO HOME, IS NOW FOR SALE. JUST BECAUSE DEVELOPERS HAVE MONEY  
25 TO RUIN THE RIDGES FOR ALL DOESN'T MEAN THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED



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1 TO DO SO. THE NORTH AREA PLAN IS A GREAT IDEA BUT IT NEEDS THE  
2 PROTECTION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU CAN WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

5

6 **JOHN FRENCH:** PLEASE APPROVE IT. THANK YOU.

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ] [ GAVEL ]

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DO YOU DO THAT TO STAY AWAKE? [ LAUGHTER ]

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. NEXT, EVAN FOREST, RICHARD  
13 DESANTIS, IF I SAID THAT CORRECTLY, IF I CAN READ THAT, AND  
14 RONALD LEBOW. ARE THEY ALL THREE HERE? WHOEVER WOULD LIKE TO  
15 GO FIRST, PLEASE PROCEED.

16

17 **RONALD LEBOW:** HI. MY NAME IS RONALD LEBOW. I LIVE WITH MY WIFE  
18 AND TWO CHILDREN ON ALTA DRIVE IN TOPANGA CANYON. I AM ON A  
19 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE. I SUPPORT AND AM A MEMBER OF  
20 ENVIRONMENTAL CALIFORNIA. I SUPPORT REASONABLE LAND USE  
21 PLANNING BUT THIS ORDINANCE SETS UP AN ARBITRARY AND  
22 CAPRICIOUS DEFINITION OF WHAT A SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE IS. MR.  
23 COWARDINE WAS KIND TO SPEAK TO ME AFTER THE LAST PLANNING  
24 COMMISSION HEARING AND I ASKED HIM, "HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH  
25 THIS DESIGNATION OF RIDGELINE WHICH EXCEEDS ANY OTHER



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1 DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE IN ANY OTHER ORDINANCE  
2 THAT I'M AWARE OF?" AND I CHECKED WITH CASTAIC AND OTHERS AND  
3 HE SAID THAT THE STAFF CREATED CRITERIA AND THEN BASICALLY  
4 WALKED AROUND AND WHATEVER THEY COULD SEE WAS DEEMED A  
5 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE. NOW, MY HOME LIVES ON A RIDGE THAT  
6 CANNOT BE SEEN EXCEPT FROM A PRIVATE ROAD RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT  
7 AND YET I AND ALL OF MY NEIGHBORS ON ALTA DRIVE ARE DEEMED  
8 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES SUBJECT TO THESE REQUIREMENTS. THE  
9 SECONDS ISSUE IS FORCING BUILDING AND GRADING DOWN THE SLOPE  
10 75 TO A HUNDRED FEET INTO THE CANYONS, WHICH HARMS THE  
11 ENVIRONMENT. THAT'S WHERE THE WILDLIFE AND THAT'S WHERE THE  
12 VEGETATION IS. AND WITH-- COUPLED WITH A 200-FOOT ADDITIONAL  
13 FIRE CLEARANCE, WHICH IS MANDATED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
14 WOULD NOW CREATE BROADER DENUDING AND DEGRADATION OF THE  
15 ENVIRONMENT. NOW, MY WIFE, WHO COULDN'T BE HERE, SHE'S NATIVE  
16 AMERICAN, AND SHE HAS ANCESTORS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES,  
17 INCLUDING HER GRANDMOTHER, WHO LIVED ON A RESERVATION DUE TO  
18 GOVERNMENT TAKING. AND WHILE THIS DOESN'T RISE TO THAT, SHE  
19 ASKED THE QUESTION AND SENT A LETTER TO SUPERVISOR  
20 YAROSLAVSKY'S OFFICE AND WHILE THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO  
21 RESPOND, THEY DIDN'T ANSWER THIS QUESTION. ACCORDING TO HER  
22 AND HER NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, ALL LAND IS SACRED. THE VIEW  
23 IS SACRED AND SO IS THE SLOPES AND THE CANYONS, PARTICULARLY  
24 WHERE ALL OF THE WILDLIFE IS. WHY ARE WE ALL FOCUSED SOLELY



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1 UPON THE VIEW AND NOT UPON THE SLOPES AND THE HILLSIDES WHICH  
2 WILL BE DEGRADED BY THIS ORDINANCE?

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** GO AHEAD.

7

8 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS RICHARD DESANTIS. I  
9 OWNER OF A RANCH CALLED QUEST RANCH WHICH I STARTED BUILDING  
10 IN 1977 AND I'VE OWNED IT EVER SINCE. I SPEAK AS, I THINK, A  
11 SOMEWHAT EXPERT OPERATOR OF A BOARDING AND TRAINING STABLE.  
12 I'VE HEARD A LOT OF COMMENTS ABOUT HOW YOU BOARD HORSES,  
13 WHETHER YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACE, ET CETERA, NONE OF WHICH  
14 APPARENTLY MEETS WITH MY UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE FACTS. ONE OF  
15 THE FACTS THAT I FOUND VERY DISCONCERTING WAS THE SUGGESTION  
16 THAT ONE COULD HAVE A RIDING RING WITH A VERY SMALL AREA. ONE  
17 DOES NOT HAVE A RIDING RING WITH A SMALL AREA UNLESS YOU WANT  
18 TO GET SOMEBODY HURT. AND I WANTED TO DIRECT MY COMMENT TO  
19 SUPERVISOR BURKE BECAUSE I KNOW SHE ASKED, WHAT WAS THE SIZE  
20 OF A GENERALLY GOOD RIDING RINK? AND IT HAPPENS TO BE 30,000  
21 FEET, SQUARE FEET. AND THE REASON IT IS 30,000 SQUARE FEET IS  
22 BECAUSE THAT'S THE SIZE OF AN OLYMPIC RIDING RING. AND I KNOW  
23 THAT AS A FACT BECAUSE THE OLYMPIC TEAM, THE RIDING TEAM  
24 TRAINED, IN PART, ON MY RANCH AND WE BUILT IT FOR THEM. NOW,  
25 WHEN YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF RING, YOU NEED AT LEAST 18 INCHES



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1 OF WASHED SAND. BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU COULD NEVER, UNDER THESE  
2 TERMS, NEVER BUILD THAT KIND OF A RING AGAIN. SECONDLY, I WANT  
3 TO POINT OUT TWO OTHER FACTS, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT TIME IS  
4 RUNNING, THAT ARE INTERESTING AND SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND. ONE  
5 OF THE THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE ON THIS RANCH IS TO BUILD OUR  
6 TRAILS. NOBODY WHO I'VE HEARD TODAY CAN TELL ME THAT THEY HAVE  
7 BEEN BUILDING TRAILS IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD. NO ONE. AND, IN  
8 FACT, WE HAVE BUILT TRAILS ACROSS THE AREA THAT IS NOW...

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. COULD YOU WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

11

12 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** COULD I WIND IT DOWN?

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JUST WRAP IT UP.

15

16 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** OKAY. THE EDWIN SUMMIT RIDGE PARK. NOBODY  
17 GOES TO THAT PARK. WE HAVE TO CUT OUR TRAILS THERE BECAUSE,  
18 THAT WAY, WE CAN GET OUR TRAILS AS WE HAD THEM BEFORE. HERE'S  
19 ONE OTHER COMMENT. I HEARD SOMEBODY SAY THAT THERE WERE 33  
20 MILLION PEOPLE VISIT THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL  
21 RECREATION PARK DURING THE YEAR. THAT'S A MISLEADING  
22 STATEMENT. THE 32,800,000 ARE-- GO TO THE BEACH. LESS THAN  
23 200,000 VISIT THE PARK.

24

25 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WRAP UP.



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1

2 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** THANK YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

5

6 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, CAN I ASK A QUESTION? IS THE  
7 30,000-SQUARE-FOOT SIZE OF THE RIDING RING...

8

9 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** YES?

10

11 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ...YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO  
12 BUILD IT AGAIN UNDER THIS ORDINANCE. IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE  
13 15,000 SQUARE FOOT THRESHOLD ON DISTURBED AREA?

14

15 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** YES. AND, OF COURSE, SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY,  
16 YOU HAVE TO HAVE A FOOTING. THE FOOTING HAS TO GO DOWN ABOUT  
17 18 INCHES. YOU HAVE TO PUT 18 INCHES OF WASHED SAND...

18

19 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND WHAT IS THE PROVISION IN THE ORDINANCE  
20 THAT WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM DOING THAT?

21

22 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** THE 15,000 SQUARE FEET.

23





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1   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO IF THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT-- IF THERE  
2   WAS NO LIMITATION ON THE SIZE OF A PAD, OF A DISTURBED AREA,  
3   YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD A RIDING RING?

4

5   **RICHARD DESANTIS:** WELL, THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR INTERPRETATION...

6

7   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** IT DEPENDS ON THE TERRAIN, RIGHT?

8

9   **RICHARD DESANTIS:** IT DEPENDS ON YOUR INTERPRETATION ALSO OF  
10   WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU PUT 18 INCHES OF WASHED SAND ON TOP.  
11   THAT'S BRINGING SAND INTO YOUR PROPERTY AND I ASSUME THAT ALSO  
12   RUNS AFOUL OF THE OTHER PART OF THE ORDINANCE.

13

14   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. THANK YOU.

15

16   **SUP. BURKE:** WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED AGAIN?

17

18   **RICHARD DESANTIS:** WE'RE AT 4101 TOPANGA CANYON BOULEVARD.  
19   WE'RE RIGHT ON TOPANGA AND IT'S WOODLAND HILLS POST OFFICE  
20   BUT, OF COURSE, IT'S COUNTY TERRITORY. WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY  
21   ALMOST 50 ACRES, WHICH-- IN FOUR OR FIVE PARCELS WHICH I  
22   BOUGHT IN 1976.

23

24   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MR. FOREST AND THEN I'M GOING TO  
25   CALL DAVID, FROM THE OTHER SIDE, DAVID TROY, TODD CUMMINGS AND



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1 CECELIA BELIEK, IF YOU'D BE READY TO COME FORWARD, PLEASE. MR.  
2 FOREST?

3

4 **EVAN FOREST:** MY NAME'S EVAN FOREST. TODAY, I'M SPEAKING ON  
5 BEHALF OF A PROPERTY OWNER OF APN 2063-020-033. THE PROPOSED  
6 GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE HAS NOT BEEN SCRUTINIZED TO  
7 THE CORRECT DEGREE PURSUANT TO C.E.Q.A. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED  
8 TODAY, PUSHING HOMES DOWN THE HILLSIDE WILL HAVE A GREATER  
9 IMPACT ON BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. FURTHER, UNDER SECTION 1,  
10 SECTION 15003-J, DECISIONS MUST BE INFORMED AND BALANCED AND  
11 NOT SUBVERTED INTO THE INSTRUMENT FOR THE DELAY OF SOCIAL,  
12 ECONOMIC, OR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR ADVANCEMENT. THE  
13 PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE NORTH AREA WILL BE SUBJECTED TO  
14 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS MAKING IT ECONOMICALLY DIFFICULT TO  
15 BUILD ON THEIR PROPERTY. UNDER OUR ARTICLE 5, SECTION 15064-J  
16 OF C.E.Q.A., PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT CAUSE ADVERSE ECONOMIC OR  
17 SOCIAL EFFECTS ON PEOPLE MAY BE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT. THE  
18 DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING SHOULD PREPARE A PROGRAM  
19 E.I.R. AS THIS IS C.E.Q.A.'S TOOL TO DEAL WITH GOVERNMENT  
20 REGULATIONS. UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF C.E.Q.A., THE PROGRAM E.I.R.  
21 CAN BE USED EFFECTIVELY TO DEAL WITH A DECISION TO ADOPT A NEW  
22 BODY OF REGULATIONS IN A REGULATORY PROGRAM. THE PROPOSED  
23 GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE MEETS THIS CRITERIA AND, BASED  
24 ON THE VOLUMINOUS PUBLIC OUTCRY, THE ORDINANCE EFFECTS-- OF  
25 THE ORDINANCE AFFECTS ON THE ENTIRE ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE



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1 SCRUTINIZED TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. THANK YOU AND HAVE A GOOD  
2 AFTERNOON.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

5

6 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, COULD I JUST GO BACK TO  
7 SOMETHING MR. DESANTIS ASKED, JUST TO CLARIFY BECAUSE I THINK  
8 IT'S IMPORTANT WHILE IT'S ON EVERYBODY'S MIND. I WANT TO FOCUS  
9 ON THE 18 INCHES OF SAND THAT HE TALKED ABOUT IN HIS 30,000-  
10 SQUARE-FOOT RIDING RING THAT HE'D HAVE TO PUT IN FOR A NEW  
11 RIDING RING. WOULD THAT BE CONSIDERING GRADING UNDER THE  
12 ORDINANCE?

13

14 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** IT WOULD BE IMPORTING MATERIAL INTO A SITE.  
15 IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED GRADING.

16

17 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WOULD THE PUBLIC WORKS PEOPLE COME FORWARD?  
18 BY THE WAY, IT'S NOWHERE NEAR 5,000...

19

20 **RICHARD DESANTIS:** BY MY CALCULATION, THAT WOULD BE ABOUT 1,700  
21 CUBIC YARDS.

22

23 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** YEAH. WELL, YOU'RE FASTER THAN I AM BUT  
24 WOULD IT-- LEAVING ASIDE HOW MUCH GRADING IT IS, IF IT IS  
25 GRADING, WHAT...



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1

2 **MARK PASTRALA:** MR. YAROSLAVSKY, MARK PASTRALA WITH PUBLIC  
3 WORKS. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ARENA AND THE REPLACEMENT OF  
4 SAND, THE SAND ITSELF BEING PLACED THERE DOES NOT REQUIRE A  
5 GRADING PERMIT. THE FORMATION OF THE ORIGINAL ARENA MAY...

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** COME CLOSER TO THE MIKE, BECAUSE I CAN'T  
8 HEAR YOU.

9

10 **MARK PASTRALA:** I'M SORRY. THE FORMATION OF THE ARENA ITSELF,  
11 CUTTING INTO SLOPE, MAYBE CUTTING A FLAT AREA WOULD REQUIRE A  
12 GRADING PERMIT. THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SAND SELECT MATERIAL  
13 DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT FROM US.

14

15 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SO THAT IF IT'S A FLAT AREA, IT DOESN'T  
16 REQUIRE ANY GRADING TO CREATE THE RING, THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE  
17 OF THE-- PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF THE RING. THAT'S THE PART THAT  
18 WOULD BE THE PART SUBJECT TO THE GRADING PERMIT?

19

20 **MARK PASTRALA:** THAT'S CORRECT.

21

22 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ONCE THE GRADING-- ONCE THE RING IS THERE,  
23 WHETHER IT'S MET THE THRESHOLD OR COME BELOW IT, THE PLACEMENT  
24 OF SAND OR WHATEVER OTHER MATERIAL FOR THE HORSE-- TO RIDE



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1 HORSES ON WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED GRADING, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE  
2 SAYING?

3

4 **MARK PASTRALA:** THAT WOULD BE MY INTERPRETATION, YES.

5

6 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THANK YOU.

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY, THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. CECELIA AND  
9 THEN DAVID TROY AND THEN TODD CUMMINGS, ARE THEY STILL HERE?  
10 ARE DAVID TROY OR TODD CUMMINGS HERE? IF NOT, THEN MARGARET  
11 KRPAN AND JUDITH MARX, ARE THEY HERE?

12

13 **CECELIA BELIEK:** I'M CECELIA.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MARGARET, I HOPE I DIDN'T BUTCHER YOUR NAME  
16 TOO BAD. OKAY, GO AHEAD, CECELIA.

17

18 **CECELIA BELIEK:** MY NAME IS CECELIA BELIEK AND I LIVE IN  
19 MALIBU ON WESTLAKE VILLAGE. I SEE THE MOUNTAINS EVERY DAY FROM  
20 MY WINDOWS AND OUTSIDE AND I REMEMBER GOING, AS A CHILD, TO  
21 THE MOUNTAINS TO VISIT A FRIEND AND I REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL  
22 WILDFLOWERS AND HOW BEAUTIFUL IT WAS. THEN, LATER ON, WHEN I  
23 GOT OLDER, WE WENT TO VISIT UNCLE GEORGE UP AT MALIBU LAKE AND  
24 HOW BEAUTIFUL THAT WAS AND HOW WE ENJOYED THE DEER COMING TO  
25 THE FENCE, EATING THE ROSES THROUGH THE FENCE AND I REMEMBER



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1 GOING TO THE TOP OF THE HILL AND LOOKING OUT, YOU COULD SEE  
2 FOR MILES. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, PLEASE SAVE OUR SANTA  
3 MONICA MOUNTAINS FOR THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA AND REMEMBER  
4 THAT WE LOVE IT.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

7

8 **MARGARET KR PAN:** HELLO. I'M MARGARET KR PAN, I LIVE IN WEST LAKE  
9 VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH SEVERAL-- MANY  
10 OF THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE SPOKEN EARLIER TODAY SUPPORTING THIS  
11 ORDINANCE. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT IT AS WELL. I'M A  
12 NATIVE CALIFORNIAN, NATIVE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND I HAVE  
13 WATCHED OUR AREA GO THROUGH SOME VERY ROUGH TIMES, HAVING SO  
14 MANY OF OUR AREAS REALLY SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED AND NOT FOR THE  
15 BEST. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO BALANCE THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS  
16 VERSUS OUR COMMUNITY'S RIGHTS IN ENJOYING THESE MOUNTAINS AND  
17 SAVING THEM FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR OUR FUTURE. THANK YOU.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

20

21 **JUDITH MARX:** HI, MY NAME IS JUDITH MARX.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** JUDITH, BEFORE YOU STARTED YOUR TIME, I  
24 WOULD ASK STEVE TWINING, ANNE HOFFMAN AND RAOUL CONTRERAS TO  
25 COME FORWARD, PLEASE. GO AHEAD.





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1

2 **JUDITH MARX:** THANK YOU. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS  
3 ORDINANCE. I THINK IT'S GREAT. I WANT TO ENCOURAGE ITS  
4 PASSAGE. I OWN 80 ACRES IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS OFF OF  
5 CANAAN UP AT THE TOP OF LOBO CANYON. I'VE DONATED 40 ACRES TO  
6 CONSERVANCY AS WE SPEAK. I'M TRYING TO GET SOME MORE DONATED  
7 AND I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THERE IS A DIVERGENCE IN A  
8 MINDSET IN THIS ROOM AND IN THE WORLD. TO SOME PEOPLE, LAND  
9 AND NATURAL RESOURCES HAVE AN INTRINSIC BEAUTY AND AN  
10 INTRINSIC VALUE AND, TO OTHERS, ALL IT REPRESENTS IS WHAT CAN  
11 BE TAKEN OFF OF IT OR PUT ON IT. AND IF YOU CONSIDER WHAT YOUR  
12 MINDSET IS IN THIS, I'D LIKE TO READ TO YOU A CREE INDIAN  
13 PROPHECY SO THAT IT GOES INTO THE LOS ANGELES RECORD. "ONLY  
14 AFTER THE LAST TREE HAS BEEN CUT DOWN, ONLY AFTER THE LAST  
15 RIVER HAS BEEN POISONED, ONLY AFTER THE LAST FISH HAS BEEN  
16 CAUGHT, ONLY THEN WILL YOU FIND THAT MONEY CANNOT BE EATEN."  
17 THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. STEVE TWINING, ANNE  
20 HOFFMAN AND RAOUL CONTRERAS. GO AHEAD. LET'S SEE. SO YOU'RE  
21 ANNE AND YOU ARE, SIR?

22

23 **RAOUL CONTRERAS:** I'M CONTRERAS.

24



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. SO STEVE TWINING'S NOT HERE? WADE  
2    MAJOR. IS WADE STILL HERE? OKAY, WADE, COME FORWARD. GO AHEAD,  
3    PLEASE. THANK YOU.

4

5    **ANNE HOFFMAN:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS ANNE HOFFMANN, I'M  
6    PRESIDENT OF THE LAND USE DEFENSE FUND. THIS ORDINANCE IS A  
7    PROGRAM OF UNPRECEDENTED CONFISCATION OF HOMEOWNERS' LAND AND  
8    WILL HAVE FAR MORE DAMAGING IMPACTS IN THE OTHER FOUR  
9    DISTRICTS THAN EVEN IN THE PEOPLE IN THE SANTA MONICA  
10   MOUNTAINS. ONCE AGAIN, THIS RED TAPE PLAN TIPS THE L.A. BASIN  
11   SO ALL THE RESOURCES AND THE MONEY AND DOLLARS GO FROM THE  
12   POORER COMMUNITIES IN THE EAST SIDE AND THE SOUTH OF L.A.  
13   COUNTY AND POURS THEM INTO THE AFFLUENT WEST SIDE. UNDER THE  
14   ABSURDITY OF THIS ORDINANCE, YOU'LL BE SPENDING THE SAME  
15   DOLLARS AND TIME IN C.U.P. HEARINGS AND RESOURCES REVIEWING AN  
16   APPLICATION TO BUILD-- TO GRADE A 10-SQUARE-FOOT AREA FOR A  
17   HOMEOWNER'S WATER TANK OR A PARKING SPACE, A 10-SQUARE-FOOT  
18   AREA FOR A PARKING SPACE BECAUSE, ONCE A PERSON HAS 15,000  
19   SQUARE FEET, YOU NEED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO GRADE 10  
20   SQUARE FEET. SO THE ABSURDITY IS YOU'LL BE SPENDING THE SAME  
21   RESOURCES AS A CRITICALLY NEEDED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ON THE  
22   EAST SIDE OF L.A. THAT HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR TWO YEARS BECAUSE  
23   OF THE BACKLOG AND THE 3,500 C.U.P.S IN YOUR SYSTEM. THE  
24   SECOND IMPACT WILL BE THE FINANCIAL REVENUE LOSS IN  
25   PERPETUITY, NOT ONLY FROM THE DECLINE OF THOUSANDS OF LOTS OF



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1 THE ASSESSED VALUE BUT FROM THE REMOVAL OF THESE PROPERTIES  
2 FROM THE TAX ROLLS IN PERPETUITY WHEN THE COUNTY COMPLIES WITH  
3 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S DEMAND FOR MANDATORY  
4 DONATIONS OF LAND AND FEE IN EXCHANGE FOR PERMITS UNDER  
5 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS. THERE'S A REASON CONDITIONAL USE  
6 PERMITS ARE NOT USED FOR USES BY RIGHT IN A ZONE. BECAUSE  
7 THEY'RE A PROGRAM, A FORMULA FOR UNDERGROUND RULES AND  
8 EXTORTION. YOU BASICALLY GET THE LAW THAT YOU CAN AFFORD TO  
9 BUY. THE PERSON WHO DOESN'T HAVE \$7,000 FOR AN S.E.A. PERMIT  
10 DOESN'T GET TO HAVE THAT POOL. WHAT KIND OF SOCIETIES ARE WE  
11 CREATING DOING THAT? AND, ALSO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HAVE  
12 A PERSON REMOVE THEIR DRIVEWAY WHEN THE FIVE-YEAR SUNSET  
13 CLAUSE KICKS IN? AND IF YOU THINK THIS HEARING IS LASTING A  
14 LONG TIME IN THIS ROOM, WAIT UNTIL YOU THE FIND OUT THAT-- THE  
15 NEIGHBORS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FIND OUT THAT THEY CAN  
16 APPEAL THEIR NEIGHBOR'S IMPROVEMENTS AND BRING THEM TO  
17 HEARINGS WHEN THEY HAVE SQUABBLES AND THERE'S 20,000 PEOPLE  
18 THAT ARE GOING TO TIE YOU UP FOR YEARS. THANK YOU. MR.  
19 CONTRERAS.

20

21 **RAOUL CONTRERAS:** I'M RAOUL LOWRY CONTRERAS, AND I'D LIKE TO  
22 SAY A FEW WORDS. I WRITE BOOKS FOR A LIVING AND I HEARD STAFF  
23 EARLIER USE WORDS LIKE "NOT NECESSARILY" AND "ABOUT 50%". AND  
24 IT JUST SEEMS TO ME THAT, AS A PERSON WHO LIVES BY THE WORD,  
25 THAT STAFF SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE PRECISE. NOW, THEY ARE NOT



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1   PRECISE EITHER BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW AND, IN FACT, ONE OF  
2   THE ANSWERS WAS, "I DON'T KNOW THAT ANSWER." AND I'VE BEEN  
3   SITTING HERE ALL MORNING AND AFTERNOON LISTENING TO THIS AND  
4   I'M WONDERING, IS THIS THE SAME STAFF THAT FORGOT TO COLLECT  
5   THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THE PROPERTY DOWNTOWN NEXT TO THE  
6   STAPLES? I HAVE TO WONDER, BECAUSE I HEAR THE ARGUMENTS AND I  
7   HEAR THE STAFF AND I HEAR THE SUPERVISOR SAY THAT HE DOESN'T  
8   THINK PROPERTY VALUES ARE GOING TO BE AFFECTED. IT'S NOT THAT  
9   SO MUCH AS WE HAVE HERE A CREATION OF A BUTTERFLY EFFECT. FOR  
10  THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT  
11  IS, IT'S THE THEORY THAT, IF A BUTTERFLY FLAPS ITS WINGS IN  
12  THE AMAZON, THAT WE ARE AFFECTED HERE IN CALIFORNIA. AND  
13  WHAT'S HAPPENING IS YOU'RE CONCENTRATING ALL THIS EFFORT, ALL  
14  THIS ATTENTION ON A VERY SMALL, RELATIVELY SMALL AREA OF THE  
15  COUNTY AFFECTING RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THE  
16  PEOPLE ON THE EAST SIDE OR THE PEOPLE ON THE SOUTH CENTRAL ARE  
17  GOING TO BE PICKING UP THE TAB ON THIS, BECAUSE SOMEONE'S  
18  GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE UP THE REVENUES THAT ARE GOING TO BE  
19  LOST AND THERE WILL BE REVENUES LOST OVER THE YEARS AND  
20  SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE UP THE DEFICIT THAT THIS  
21  DEPARTMENT NOW SUFFERS THROUGH, I'LL GUESS ABOUT \$8 MILLION.  
22  THE DEFICIT WILL GROW LARGER. SOMEONE HAS TO PICK UP THE TAB.  
23  EARLIER TODAY THERE WAS A GROUP OF 40 OR 50 MEXICAN INDIAN  
24  WORKERS SITTING UP HERE AND THEY WERE HERE TO PROTEST THIS  
25  ORDINANCE BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO LOSE WORK BECAUSE OF IT.



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1 PEOPLE ARE GOING TO LOSE JOBS, TAXES ARE GOING TO GO UP AND  
2 THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GO UP ON THE PEOPLE IN THE SANTA MONICA  
3 NORTH AREA. I THINK YOU SHOULD CHANGE THIS, SPLIT IT OFF INTO  
4 A COUPLE OF ORDINANCES AND PURSUE IT MORE CAREFULLY FROM THE  
5 EFFICIENCY STANDPOINT. THANK YOU.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** MR. MAJOR.

10

11 **WADE MAJOR:** MY NAME IS WADE MAJOR.

12

13 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** EXCUSE ME, WADE. JUST A SECOND THERE BEFORE  
14 YOU START. AND THEN I'D ASK ERIK PONTOPPIDAN TO COME FORWARD,  
15 THOR HALSETH, AND VALERIE BURKHOLDER, IF YOU'D START MOVING  
16 FORWARD, PLEASE. MR. MAJOR? THANK YOU.

17

18 **WADE MAJOR:** MY NAME IS WADE MAJOR. I LIVE IN MALIBU. I'D LIKE  
19 TO ASK EACH OF THE SUPERVISORS TO REFLECT BACK ON THAT DAY  
20 WHEN YOU WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE YOUR FIRST HOME. DO YOU  
21 REMEMBER THE SENSE OF PRIDE? THE FEELING OF INDEPENDENCE?  
22 WELL, THAT FEELING IS WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR HERE TODAY. THAT  
23 FEELING IS THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THOSE WHO HARBOR THE  
24 AMERICAN DREAM DON'T DREAM OF HIKING OR VISITING PARKS OR  
25 ENJOYING A VIEWSHED, THEY DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP AND THE



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1 ACCOMPANYING RIGHTS. THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO A  
2 VIEWSHED. THERE'S AN ABSOLUTE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PROPERTY  
3 OWNERSHIP. LET'S NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT PROPERTY  
4 RIGHTS ARE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT RIGHTS THAT WE HAVE. THEY  
5 UNDERLIE ALL OTHERS. THESE ARE THE RIGHTS THAT ENABLED  
6 EMANCIPATED SLAVES TO KNOW THAT THEY HAD TRULY BEEN  
7 EMANCIPATED. THESE ARE THE RIGHTS HAVE LURED MILLIONS OF HARD  
8 WORKING IMMIGRANTS TO BUILD LIVES IN AMERICA FOR THEIR  
9 POSTERITY. THIS ORDINANCE SUBVERTS PROPERTY RIGHTS TO SPECIAL  
10 INTERESTS. IT IS, AT BEST, A PRESCRIPTION FOR  
11 INSTITUTIONALIZED GRAFT. IT WILL INVITE COUNTLESS CIVIL RIGHTS  
12 LAWSUITS LIKE THE ONE RECENTLY FILED AGAINST LAURA SHELL,  
13 SEEKING \$1.5 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR ILLEGALLY ATTEMPTING TO  
14 IMPOSE CONDITIONS. 40 YEARS AGO, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
15 THIS COUNTY OFFERED RECOURSE TO MY PARENTS AFTER A COUNTY  
16 INSPECTOR ATTEMPTED TO EXTORT MONEY FROM THEM IN EXCHANGE FOR  
17 APPROVING OUR FAMILY HOME. THAT BOARD UNDERSTOOD THAT HOMES  
18 AND PROPERTY WERE SACROSANCT. I IMPORE YOU TO FOLLOW THEIR  
19 EXAMPLE AND MAKE THE RIGHTS OF HOMEOWNERS YOUR PRIORITY. BY  
20 PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS AND DREAMS, YOU WILL SHOW A COMMITMENT  
21 TO ALL OF OUR RIGHTS AND DREAMS. [ APPLAUSE ]

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ERIK THOR AND VALERIE, IF YOU'D  
24 COME FORWARD, PLEASE.

25





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1   **ERIK PONTOPPIDAN:** MY NAME IS ERIK PONTOPPIDAN. I'VE LIVED IN  
2   THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS AND I LOVE  
3   THIS AREA. I URGE THE SUPERVISORS TO PASS THIS BILL AND I  
4   WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAVING IS NOT ONLY FOR  
5   THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THIS AREA BUT IT'S FOR EVERYONE IN THE  
6   COUNTY, BECAUSE THIS AREA IS A PRISTINE LEGACY THAT EVERYONE  
7   SHOULD ENJOY. THANK YOU.

8

9   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

10

11   **VALERIE BURKHOLDER:** MY NAME IS VALERIE BURKHOLDER. I'M IN  
12   FAVOR OF THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE IS  
13   THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE MOUNTAINS IN THIS REGION.  
14   IT WILL SPARE THE EVER SHRINKING PRISTINE HILLS IN THE NORTH  
15   AREA FROM THE RUSH OF DEVELOPMENT. WHY NOT TAKE THIS CHANCE TO  
16   KEEP THE HILLS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THEY ARE, STILL ALLOWING  
17   LANDOWNERS TO ADD ON TO THEIR HOMES? THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE  
18   WILL NOT PREVENT CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE FAMILY HOMES OR HORSE  
19   KEEPING. A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT DOES NOT COST \$40,000. IT  
20   ACTUALLY COSTS \$4,478 AND IS ONLY REQUIRED IF THE PROJECT  
21   INCLUDES GRADING OVER 15,000 SQUARE FEET, THREE 5,000-SQUARE-  
22   FOOT MANSIONS OR IF IT MOVES MORE THAN THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS  
23   OF MATERIAL. THAT'S 500 TRUCKLOADS OF DIRT. THAT'S A LITTLE  
24   MORE THAN YOUR ADDITIONAL BEDROOM. THE ORDINANCE PERMITS HORSE  
25   KEEPING AS WELL. EIGHT HORSES PER ACRE ARE PERMITTED. THE LAND



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1 USE PRESERVATION DEFENSE FUND HAS MISLED MANY PEOPLE TO  
2 BELIEVE THAT THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY  
3 CONSTRUCTION OR HORSE KEEPING AT ALL. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS  
4 A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS ARE  
5 EXTREMELY EASY, PERHAPS TOO EASY, TO OBTAIN. 96% OF RECENT  
6 C.U.P.S WERE APPROVED. IN ADDITION, C.U.P.S ONLY TAKE AN  
7 AVERAGE OF 11.4 MONTHS TO OBTAIN. THEY DO NOT TAKE YEARS.  
8 HOWEVER, 11.4 MONTHS MAY SEEM LONG. EVEN SO, PEOPLE NEED TIME  
9 TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF THEIR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ON THE  
10 LAND. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE MOUNTAINS IN THE  
11 NORTH AREA. IT IS THE ONLY AREA LEFT IN THIS REGION WITHOUT  
12 EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT. LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS IS ONE OF THE  
13 THINGS THAT DESTROYS THEM THE MOST. BUILDING REQUIRES CUTTING  
14 INTO THE HILLS, REMOVING TREES AND OBSTRUCTING THE VIEW OF THE  
15 LANDSCAPE. THOSE WHO REALLY LOVE THE MOUNTAINS WOULD LIVE AT  
16 THE BOTTOM AND LEAVE THE TOP VIEWS FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY. THE  
17 BLUE SKIES, GOLDEN HILLS, OAK TREES AND AMAZING VIEWS ARE WHAT  
18 ATTRACTS SO MANY PEOPLE TO THE MOUNTAINS. WHAT WOULD WE DO  
19 WITHOUT THEM? PLEASE DON'T EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS AND HORSE  
20 FACILITIES, DON'T REMOVE THE 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT REQUIREMENT.  
21 THE RIDGELINE ORDINANCE IS, IN SHORT, THE BEST THING THAT HAS  
22 HAPPENED TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. IT PROVIDES A REVIEW  
23 PROCESS TO INDIVIDUALLY ASSESS PROJECTS THAT AFFECT THE  
24 MOUNTAINS. THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THEM. THEY ARE OUR



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1 MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE. THEY DON'T EXIST TO BE DOMINATED BY A  
2 FEW. THANK YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THOR, AND THEN I'D ASK KATE NOVOTNY, AND  
7 MICHAEL FRAULEY AND MARY LOUISE FRAWLEY TO COME FORWARD,  
8 PLEASE. OKAY, THOR?

9

10 **THOR HALSETH:** FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO THANK VALERIE. I THINK  
11 SHE'S GOING TO BE SITTING UP IN ONE OF THOSE CHAIRS SOME DAY.  
12 MY NAME IS THOR HALSETH AND I REPRESENT MYSELF AND MY WIFE,  
13 CARLA, AND WE LIVE AT 3737 MEDIA CREEK ROAD, AGOURA, IN AN  
14 UNINCORPORATED PART OF SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. DEAR BOARD  
15 MEMBERS, WE ARE RESIDENTS OF THE SANTA MONICA AND EQUESTRIAN  
16 MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE, NORTH  
17 AMERICAN TRAIL RIDERS CONFERENCE, EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS,  
18 INCORPORATED, AS WELL AS LIFETIME MEMBERS OF THE SANTA MONICA  
19 MOUNTAINS TRAIL COUNCIL. WE MOVED INTO THIS AREA FOR EXPLICIT  
20 ACCESS TO THE TRAILS THAT THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS PROVIDE.  
21 AS AVID TRAIL RIDERS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF  
22 THIS AREA MUST BE PROTECTED FROM THE AGGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT.  
23 NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED-- SHOULD  
24 MAINTAIN THE RURAL CHARACTER OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE BEAUTY  
25 OF THE MOUNTAINS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE



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1 EXCESSIVE GRADING AND RIDGELINE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS  
2 CONTINUE, AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED PHOTOS. THESE SORT OF  
3 THE PROJECTS THREATEN THE RURAL AND EQUESTRIAN LIFESTYLE  
4 RESIDENTS LIKE WE ENJOY SO MUCH. PLEASE PROTECT AND DEFEND THE  
5 REGION'S RICH NATURAL DIVERSITY SO THAT OUR FAMILY CAN  
6 CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS FOR YEARS TO COME  
7 AND THE ADOPTION-- THE ADOPTION OF THE RIDGELINE AND GRADING  
8 ORDINANCE WILL ALLOW OUR COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE MOUNTAINS'  
9 RICH NATURAL DIVERSITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF EQUESTRIANS.  
10 I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STATE THAT I AM A BUSINESS OWNER IN  
11 WESTLAKE, L.A. COUNTY AND IF I LOSE MY TRAIL ACCESS IN THE  
12 SANTA MONICAS, IT LEAVES ME NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE OUT OF THE  
13 AREA AND TAKE MY BUSINESS WITH ME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. LET'S SEE. AND YOU ARE?

16

17 **MICHAEL FRAULEY:** MICHAEL FRAULEY.

18

19 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AND MARY LOUISE. SO KATE IS GONE. OKAY.  
20 MAYISHA AKBAR. STILL HERE? OKAY. ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD.

21

22 **MICHAEL FRAULEY:** MY NAME IS MIKE FRAULEY. I'M IN OPPOSITION TO  
23 THE ORDINANCE. IF YOU CONSIDER THE RIDGELINE, WHICH WE ALL DO,  
24 AS SPECIAL BETWEEN WESTLAKE VILLAGE AND THE SANTA MONICA  
25 MOUNTAINS, THAT RIDGELINE IS APPROXIMATELY 14 TO 1,500 FEET



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1 ABOVE SEA LEVEL. THE STAFF IS NOW MAPPED A SIGNIFICANT  
2 RIDGELINE DOWN TO APPROXIMATELY A THOUSAND FEET. THAT'S 400 TO  
3 500 FEET BELOW THE RIDGELINE AND THEY EXPECT THAT NO HOUSES  
4 ARE GOING TO BE BUILT 50 FEET BELOW THAT. I THINK THIS IS  
5 ARBITRARY. NOW, THE BOARD APPROVED A SEWER THAT MY FAMILY  
6 GIFTED SEVEN MONTHS AGO IN LOBO CANYON. THERE'S NOT VERY MANY  
7 SEWERS THAT ARE GIFTED TO THE COMMUNITY. IN 1999, WE GIFTED A  
8 MILE-LONG WATER MAIN TO THE COMMUNITY. NOW, THESE ARE LONG-  
9 TERM INVESTMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNTY WANTS TO  
10 REDUCE GRADING BUT I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE DONE ON A  
11 ARBITRARY BASIS WHERE STAFF-- I CAN'T BELIEVE STAFF DOESN'T  
12 KNOW THAT THE MAJORITY OF LOTS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH  
13 A C.U.P. I THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS FOR THE STATEMENTS TO BE MADE  
14 THAT 50%. NOW, THERE'S NO GREAT-- IF YOU LOOK AT THE PERMITS  
15 ISSUED IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR GRADING THE NORTH AREA  
16 PLAN, THERE WERE 42 PERMITS-- NOW, THIS IS GRADING, NOT JUST  
17 FOR SINGLE-FAMILY LOTS BUT 42 PERMITS ISSUED IN THREE YEARS.  
18 THAT'S 13 PERMITS A YEAR. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE RUNNING AMUCK  
19 WHERE EVERYONE IS RUNNING CRAZY HERE. THIS ORDINANCE SHOULD GO  
20 BACK TO THE COUNTY STAFF AND THEY SHOULD COME UP WITH A BETTER  
21 WAY OF HANDLING HOW MUCH YARDAGE ARE REASONABLE FOR DRIVEWAYS  
22 SO THAT WE'RE NOT BOGGED DOWN IN C.U.P.S FOR SINGLE-FAMILY  
23 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, SIRs.

24

25 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ SCATTERED APPLAUSE ]



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** GO AHEAD.

3

4 **MARY LOUISE FRAULEY:** MY NAME IS MARY LOUISE FRAULEY. I WAS  
5 HELPING MY BROTHER UP HERE BECAUSE HE HAS A VISION PROBLEM BUT  
6 I'M TESTIFYING SEPARATELY FROM HIM. I'M THE OWNER OF PROPERTY  
7 IN LOBO CANYON. FOUR YEARS AGO, I SAT UP HERE AND SUPPORTED  
8 THE NORTH AREA PLAN. I HAD ATTENDED ALL OF THE HEARINGS AND  
9 FELT THAT I HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES. BUT IT WAS  
10 MY UNDERSTANDING THAT I WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO BUILD ONE HOME  
11 OF MY CHOOSING ON AN EXISTING LOT WITHOUT GOING THROUGH A  
12 C.U.P. THEN THIS ORDINANCE WAS PROPOSED AND I FELT THAT THE  
13 RULES HAD CHANGED. TO AVOID THE COST OF A C.U.P. AND THE COST  
14 OF FINANCING MY PROPERTY WHILE I WAIT FOR A LENGTHY C.U.P.  
15 PROCESS TO PROCEED, I DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH WORK ON MY NEW  
16 HOME. I INTERVIEWED A NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS TO FIND ONE WHO  
17 COULD BUILD A COMPATIBLE HOUSE FOR OUR COMMUNITY WITH A SMALL  
18 FOOTPRINT, THEN HIRED AN ARCHITECT FOR \$4,500 AND AN ENGINEER  
19 FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE TO DESIGN MY HOME. THE HOUSE  
20 IS ON THE FLATTER PART OF THE PROPERTY, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO  
21 KNOW, THEN I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION. MY CONCERN IS THAT I  
22 GET THE FEELING THAT, EVEN THOUGH I HAVE DONE ALL OF THIS, I  
23 HAVE NO ASSURANCES THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO BUILD MY HOME  
24 BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THIS ORDINANCE. I'M CONCERNED  
25 THAT THE PROCESS MAY BE CHANGED AGAIN. I HOPE THAT THE





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1 SUPERVISORS WILL MAKE IT CLEAR TO REGIONAL PLANNING THAT THE  
2 SINGLE-FAMILY PROPERTY OWNER SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
3 BUILD A HOUSE ON THEIR PROPERTY. WE SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS  
4 THOUGH WE ARE ASKING FOR SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY. CONCERNING  
5 THE ANALYSIS OF PAST GRADING DONE BY PLANNING, I HAVE LOOKED  
6 AT SOME OF THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND THE SINGLE GRADING  
7 PERMITS THAT WERE USED FOR GRADING CALCS BY THE COUNTY DO NOT  
8 REFLECT ALL THE GRADING THAT WAS PERMITTED ON THOSE  
9 PROPERTIES. THAT MEANS A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTIES  
10 WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED THE 5,000 FIGURE THAT'S BEEN QUOTED. FOR  
11 MY PROPERTY, I'VE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH THE GOALS  
12 OF THE ORDINANCE, ALTHOUGH THE DRIVEWAY COULD BE AN ISSUE. CAN  
13 WE GET SOME ASSURANCES THAT, IF WE HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS,  
14 WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH A C.U.P. PROCESS ON TOP OF  
15 ALL THIS? THANK YOU.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

18

19 **MAYISHA AKBAR:** GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS MAYISHA AKBAR AND  
20 I'M THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE JUNIOR POSSE YOUTH  
21 EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM. WE'RE LOCATED AT 453 WEST CALDWELL STREET  
22 IN COMPTON. WE'RE AN ANTI-GANG PROGRAM YEAR-ROUND THAT USES  
23 HORSES AS A MOTIVATIONAL TOOL OF CHOICE TO HELP YOUTH SET BOTH  
24 ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS. ON BEHALF OF OUR YOUTH, I'M HERE  
25 TODAY TO ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER THIS ORDINANCE. OVER THE YEARS,



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1 I'VE BROUGHT HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES TO THE SANTA MONICA AREA TO  
2 TAKE RIDING LESSONS, TO DO CAMPING AND TO DO VARIOUS OTHER  
3 THINGS, ALWAYS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE REASON IS IS THERE IS  
4 NO PUBLIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR US IN THE SANTA MONICA  
5 MOUNTAINS. THE C.U.P. MAKES IT VERY PROHIBITIVE FOR PEOPLE TO  
6 BUILD NEW ARENAS OR TO HAVE THE EXISTING ONES PERMITTED. AND,  
7 ON BEHALF OF OUR YOUTH, I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE USES  
8 ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO US. OUR YOUTH COME FROM ALL OVER  
9 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, L.A. COUNTY, INCLUDING COMPTON,  
10 INGLEWOOD, GARDENA AND WE REALLY ENJOY THE SANTA MONICA  
11 MOUNTAINS AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY THAT MOTHER NATURE FACILITATES  
12 HERE. IT TAKES YEARS TO OBTAIN A C.U.P. AND THE EXPENSE CAN BE  
13 PROHIBITIVE. SO PLEASE RECONSIDER HOW THIS ORDINANCE IS  
14 WRITTEN. THANK YOU.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. I ASK NOLAN BURKHOLDER, MARY  
17 HUBBARD AND LEON KOZIEWICZ IF THEY'RE HERE TO COME FORWARD  
18 PLEASE. YOU ARE, SIR?

19

20 **LEON KOZIEWICZ:** LEON KOZIEWICZ.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. SO NOLA OR MARY ARE NOT HERE. HOW  
23 ABOUT LINDSAY MALINOSKI AND JAMES GARAFALO? OKAY. LEON, GO  
24 AHEAD.

25



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1   **LEON KOZIEWICZ:** OKAY. I'LL THANK THE MEMBERS HERE FOR TAKING  
2   THE TIME TO LISTEN TO THE CONCERNS OF PEOPLE. I KNOW IT'S VERY  
3   IMPORTANT IN MAKING YOUR DECISIONS AND I TERRIBLY RESPECT THE  
4   DECISION THAT YOU HAVE TO WEIGH IN TERMS OF THE IMPORTANCE.  
5   I'M STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THIS ORDINANCE BECAUSE I THINK IT  
6   DOES REPRESENT A BALANCE AND I THINK WHAT WE'VE HEARD OF IN  
7   THE DISCUSSIONS THAT PEOPLE HAVE MADE THIS AFTERNOON IS THAT  
8   THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT TO THEM BUT THAT  
9   NEEDS TO BE REALLY WEIGHED AGAINST THE EFFECTS AND WHAT IT IS  
10   THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE AND  
11   HAVE FOUND IMPORTANT AND WHAT HAS BROUGHT THEM TO THE AREA. SO  
12   IN WHAT IT IS THAT HAS BEEN SPOKEN OF TODAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THE  
13   LIMIT-- THEY'RE NOT REALLY SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS BUT THOSE  
14   ARE THINGS THAT, BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE PROJECTS, THAT  
15   THESE THINGS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY AND THE  
16   ORDINANCE, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ACCOMPLISHES THAT. SO I WANT  
17   TO THANK YOU AND I HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER THIS AND PASS IT.  
18   THANK YOU.

19

20   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

21

22   **LINDSEY MALINOSKI:** HELLO. MY NAME IS LINDSEY MALINOSKI AND I  
23   AM 16 YEARS OLD. I AM FROM WESTLAKE VILLAGE AND I AM THE  
24   PRESIDENT OF THE KIDS FACE CLUB AT AGOURA HIGH SCHOOL. KIDS  
25   FACE STANDS FOR KIDS FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT AND THERE IS



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1    NOTHING I CARE MORE ABOUT THAN THE ENVIRONMENT. WHEN I SEE  
2    WHAT HUMANS ARE DOING TO THE BEAUTIFUL, WIDE OPEN SPACES THAT  
3    USED TO BE THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, I FEEL ASHAMED. WHO DO  
4    WE THINK WE ARE? WE GET ALL UPSET WHEN WE SEE MOUNTAIN LIONS  
5    IN OUR BACKYARDS BUT ISN'T IT US WHO IS LIVING IN THEIR HOME?

6

7    **FEMALE VOICE:** THAT'S RIGHT!

8

9    **LINDSEY MALINOSKI:** YOU AND I STILL GET TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF  
10   THE SANTA MONICAS. WHAT WOULD LIFE BE LIKE WITHOUT THE BEAUTY  
11   OF NATURE SURROUNDING US? OPEN SPACE AND NATURE IS WHAT GIVES  
12   ME PERSPECTIVE AND BALANCE IN MY LIFE AND THAT'S WHAT WE ALL  
13   NEED. THEREFORE, I SUPPORT THIS ORDINANCE AND HOPE YOU DO,  
14   TOO. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

15

16   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. JAMES.

17

18   **JAMES GARAFALO:** WELL, YEAH, MY NAME IS JAMES GARAFALO. I LIVE  
19   AT 26951 DEERWEED TRAIL IN CALABASAS. I'M READING A LETTER  
20   WRITTEN BY LORI FERDINAND, WHO'S VICE- PRESIDENT OF THE LAS  
21   VIRGINIAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. SHE COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY  
22   DUE TO FAMILY ILLNESS. AND IT READS, "HONORABLE SUPERVISORS,  
23   THE CHALLENGES OF CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN A LARGE URBAN AREA AND  
24   A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ARE MANY. AS DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES  
25   INCREASE AT A GROWING POPULATION AND DECREASED LAND RESOURCES,



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1 IT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A FIRM OUTLINE OF STANDARDS TO  
2 APPLY TO PROPOSED PROJECTS. THE DETRIMENTAL RESULTS OF AN  
3 ABSENCE OF GUIDELINES FOR RIDGELINE DEVELOPMENT AND GRADING IN  
4 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS ARE EVIDENT TO THOSE OF US WHO  
5 DAILY OBSERVE DESTROYED RIDGES AND MOUNTAINSIDE SCARRING OF  
6 EXCESSIVE DIGGING. THIS ORDINANCE WOULD PUT A HALT TO THESE  
7 PRACTICES THAT HAVE CREATED PERMANENT DAMAGE TO SOME OF THE  
8 MOST FREQUENTLY VIEWED RIDGES IN THESE MOUNTAINS. WHEN  
9 CONSIDERING PLANNING, THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA ARE THE  
10 LONG-TERM RESULTS OF TODAY'S ACTIONS. WHAT WILL THE SANTA  
11 MONICA MOUNTAINS LOOK LIKE WITH INCREASED RIDGELINE  
12 DEVELOPMENT? HOW MUCH MORE GRADING CAN THE AREA ABSORB BEFORE  
13 THE QUALITY OF MOUNTAINS IS IRREVERSIBLE ALTERED? WHEN WE LOOK  
14 AT THE NEAR-TERM RESULTS OF IMPROPERLY MONITORED DEVELOPMENT,  
15 WE SEE NOT ONLY A DECIMATION OF VISUAL QUALITY OF THE  
16 MOUNTAINS BUT ALSO MORE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS HOW TO  
17 PROTECT HOMES BUILT INTO THE MOUNTAINSIDES FROM FIRES AND A  
18 DROP IN PROPERTY VALUES CONNECTED TO DESTROYED VISUAL  
19 ELEMENTS. FAILURE TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS THEN BECOMES A  
20 COST TO ALL TAXPAYERS BUT ESPECIALLY LOCAL HOMEOWNERS ARE  
21 SADDLED WITH. IN CLOSING, THE PROPOSED SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
22 GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ORDINANCE PROVIDES A  
23 FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MOUNTAINS  
24 CAN MOVE FORWARD. I WISH TO ADD MY VOICE TO THE GREAT NUMBER  
25 OF RESIDENTS SUPPORTING THIS ORDINANCE AND ENCOURAGE THE BOARD



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1 OF SUPERVISORS TO VOTE TO ENACT THIS MEASURE." THANK YOU VERY  
2 MUCH.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. JUANA CARDID OR CARDIEL--  
5 I THINK IT'S C-A-R-D-I-E-L, I BELIEVE. JAMES RASMUSSEN, LARRY  
6 BROWN. HOW MANY OF THE THREE OF YOU ARE HERE? ONE OVER THERE?  
7 OKAY. IS JAMES OR LARRY HERE? OKAY. MARY WATKINS. TAMI SEMLER.  
8 IS MARY OR TAMI HERE? YOU'RE TAMI? OKAY. MARY'S NOT HERE.  
9 MICHAEL ZACHS. IS MICHAEL HERE? DONNA SHEN. IS DONNA HERE?  
10 HERE WE GO. OKAY.

11

12 **JUANA CARDIEL:** HI. MY NAME IS JUANA CARDIEL. I SPOKE IN FRONT  
13 OF THIS BOARD FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN I SHARED MY TERRIBLE  
14 EXPERIENCE IN TRYING TO REPLACE MY HOME THAT BURNED DOWN IN  
15 THE 1996 MALIBU FIRE. AFTER FOUR YEARS OF HEARINGS, WE FINALLY  
16 GOT OUR PERMIT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED WERE SO  
17 EXPENSIVE, WE GAVE UP AND WE STARTED LOOKING FOR A HOME. WE  
18 BOUGHT A HOME IN THE AREA BUT EXTENDED OURSELVES TO THE LIMIT.  
19 NOW WE FIND OUT THAT OUR EXPANSION PLANS IN THE FUTURE MAY  
20 NEED A C.U.P.S. WE CAN'T AFFORD IT. PLEASE VOTE "NO" AND KEEP  
21 THE COSTS DOWN. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY.

24





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1   **TAMI SEMLER:** MY NAME IS TAMI SEMLER. I LIVE IN MALIBU BUT IN  
2   THE UNINCORPORATED PART OF L.A. COUNTY. THE NORTH AREA PLAN  
3   ENCOMPASSES THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. PLEASE NOTE THE KEY  
4   WORD, MOUNTAINS. YOU CANNOT COMPARE THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS  
5   TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. IT'S LIKE COMPARING APPLES TO  
6   ORANGES. I'M NOT A DEVELOPER. I'M A SINGLE MOM TRYING TO BUILD  
7   A HOUSE FOR MYSELF AND MY DAUGHTER IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT I  
8   GREW UP IN, THAT I LOVE AND WILL PROTECT. THE PEOPLE HERE THAT  
9   ARE FOR THIS ORDINANCE ARE, IN MY OPINION, NIMBYS, NOT IN MY  
10  BACKYARD. THEY ALREADY LIVE HERE. OF COURSE THEY DON'T WANT  
11  MORE PEOPLE COMING IN. BUT I OWN 33 ACRES IN THE SANTA MONICA  
12  MOUNTAINS. I AM IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS TRYING TO BUILD A  
13  SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE ON MY PROPERTY. I AM DEVELOPING LESS  
14  THAN 3% OF MY LAND BUT HAVE GRADED 15,000 CUBIC YARDS OF DIRT,  
15  THREE TIMES WHAT WOULD BE ALLOWED WITH THIS ORDINANCE. I'M  
16  ONLY BUILDING A DRIVEWAY, A HOUSE AND A GARAGE. 3% OF MY LAND.  
17  SO FAR, IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS AND I HAVE HALF A DRIVEWAY. I'VE  
18  BEEN AT REGIONAL PLANNING AS OF NEXT MONTH FOR MY APPROVAL AND  
19  CONCEPT, IT WILL BE THE TWO-YEAR MARK. THIS PARTICULAR PROCESS  
20  IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE SIX WEEKS. IF YOU START AND REQUEST  
21  CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FOR MORE THAN 5,000 CUBIC YARDS, DO  
22  YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SYSTEM? IT'S ALREADY  
23  MESSED UP. IT DOESN'T WORK. SIX YEARS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS,  
24  TWO YEARS FOR A SIX-WEEK PROCESS? SOMETHING'S WRONG. IT HAS TO  
25  BE FIXED BUT DOING THIS IS GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE, IT'S NOT



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1 GOING TO MAKE IT BETTER. PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON THIS GRADING AND  
2 ORDINANCE PROCESS. [ APPLAUSE ]

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ GAVEL ]

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. DONNA SHEN.

7

8 **DONNA SHEN:** MY NAME IS DONNA SHEN, PROJECT TEAM MANAGER AT  
9 SCHMIDT AND ASSOCIATES AND I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF MEADOWLANDS  
10 RANCH OWNER OF THE PROPERTY COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS APN  
11 2063...

12

13 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MOVE THE MIKE CLOSER TO YOU SO WE CAN HEAR  
14 YOU.

15

16 **DONNA SHEN:** PROPERTY REFERRED TO AS APN 2063-020033 AND WE'RE  
17 HERE TO OBJECT THE PROPOSED GRADING OF THE SIGNIFICANT  
18 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE. I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPACTS OF THIS  
19 ORDINANCE ON THIS PARTICULAR PROPERTY ILLUSTRATES AND SPEAKS  
20 TO THE CONCERNS SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH WAS PREVIOUSLY  
21 EXPRESSING THROUGH HIS QUESTIONS TO STAFF. AS THE SUBJECT  
22 PROPERTY DOES NOT FRONT THE CLOSEST PUBLIC ROAD, WHICH IS  
23 CANAAN ROAD, ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY FROM CANAAN IS VIA AN  
24 EXISTING LEGAL EASEMENT WAY MEASURING ALMOST ONE MILE IN  
25 LENGTH. AS SUCH, TO CONSTRUCT THIS ACCESS ROAD ALONE TO MEET



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1 COUNTY FIRE CODE STANDARDS, THE AMOUNT OF GRADING INVOLVED  
2 WILL WELL EXCEED THE 15,000 SQUARE FEET AND 5,000 CUBIC YARDS  
3 CUT PLUS FILL GRADING THRESHOLDS. THEREFORE, REGARDLESS OF THE  
4 TYPE OR SIZE OF THE PROJECT PROPOSED, THE PROPERTY OWNER WILL  
5 BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO THE LENGTHY, EXPENSIVE AND FRUSTRATING  
6 C.U.P. PROCESS. THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ALSO DESIGNATES SEVERAL  
7 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. WHEN ONE VIEWS  
8 THE MAP WITH THE RIDGELINES DELINEATED, ONE MAY THINK THIS THE  
9 IMPACT IS MINIMAL. HOWEVER, WE UTILIZED THE PROPERTY'S  
10 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY AND APPLIED THE 50-FOOT HORIZONTAL AND  
11 50-FOOT VERTICAL RESTRICTIONS ALONG THE DESIGNATED SIGNIFICANT  
12 RIDGELINES. IN AREAS WHERE THE SLOPE IS MORE GRADUAL FROM THE  
13 TOP OF THE RIDGELINE, IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE 50 VERTICAL  
14 REQUIREMENT, THE HORIZONTAL LINE MUST BE EXTENDED WELL BEYOND  
15 THE STATED 50-FOOT HORIZONTAL REQUIREMENT. WE WERE THEN ABLE  
16 TO CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF ACRES OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WHICH  
17 WILL BE OFF LIMITS TO ANY DEVELOPMENT. THE RESULT IS  
18 ASTOUNDING. OF THE 40 ACRES, ONLY 3.39 ACRES WOULD BE  
19 AVAILABLE TO THE PROPERTY OWNER FOR USE. AS LAND DEVELOPMENT  
20 CONSULTANTS IN MALIBU, WE KNOW FIRSTHAND THAT THE ORDINANCE  
21 IMPACTS NUMEROUS OTHER PROPERTY OWNERS IN A SIMILAR FASHION.  
22 WHILE WE CAN APPRECIATE THE COUNTY'S STATED OBJECTIVES OF THE  
23 PROPOSED ORDINANCE, WE TAKE ISSUE WITH THE MEANS THEY PROPOSE  
24 TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF THE  
25 ORDINANCE AS WRITTEN INCLUDE AT LEAST PARTIAL TAKINGS OF MANY



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1 PROPERTIES, CONSTRUCTION OF STRUCTURES ON STEEP, LESS STABLE  
2 HILLSIDES OR WITHIN THE SETBACK AREAS OF STREAMS AND DRAINAGE  
3 COURSES AND MORE GRADING. THANK YOU.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. MICHAEL HART, PENNY SUESS  
6 AND NICOLAS NOXON. JUST BEFORE WE DO THAT, WE HAVE A REQUEST  
7 ON ITEM NUMBER 23, WHICH WAS ON OUR AGENDA, COUNTY COUNSEL  
8 REQUESTS THAT ITEM BE CONTINUED FOR ONE WEEK, SO ITEM 23 WILL  
9 BE CONTINUED ONE WEEK. GO AHEAD.

10

11 **MICHAEL HART:** HI, MY NAME IS MICHAEL HART, I LIVE AT 2090 EAST  
12 LAKESHORE DRIVE, THAT'S MALIBU LAKE MOUNTAIN CLUB. IT'S IN  
13 AGOURA. THE MOUNTAIN CLUB IS ALREADY ON RECORD AS BEING IN  
14 FAVOR OF THE ORDINANCE AND I'M HERE AS JUST A HOMEOWNER. I'M  
15 ALSO A LICENSED CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE BROKER. WE JUST  
16 RECENTLY TOOK A SURVEY AT OUR-- AT MALIBU LAKE MOUNTAIN CLUB  
17 ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE-- 73% OF OUR RESPONDENTS SAID  
18 THAT THEY'D LIVE THERE, MOVED THERE BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL  
19 BEAUTY AND SOLITUDE OF THE AREA. SO WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THIS--  
20 I AM IN FAVOR OF THE ORDINANCE TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY  
21 AND SOLITUDE OF THE AREA, TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL MIGRATION OF  
22 OUR PLANTS AND ANIMALS. IF YOU BUILDS ON RIDGELINES, PLANT  
23 MATTER CANNOT GO OVER THE RIDGELINE BECAUSE HOUSES AND  
24 WHATEVER YOU BUILT THERE STOPS IT AND THAT'S THE WAY PLANT AND  
25 ANIMALS MIGRATE, THROUGH-- OVER RIDGELINES. ALSO, THE



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1 INCREASED RUNOFF TO WATER COURSES WOULD BE TREMENDOUS IF  
2 YOU'RE ALLOWED TO BUILD ON THE RIDGELINES. THANK YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. PENNY?

5

6 **PENNY SUESS:** HI. MY NAME IS PENELOPE SUESS, PENNY SUESS. I  
7 LIVE AT SEMINOLE SPRINGS WHICH IS AT 30473 MULHOLLAND. THIS IS  
8 A 215-HOME COMMUNITY LOCATED IN HISTORIC CORNELL. SURROUNDING  
9 ME AND MY NEIGHBORS ON ALL SIDES ARE RIDGES AND PEAKS OF THE  
10 SANTA MONICAS WHICH ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY UNDEVELOPED AT THIS  
11 TIME. AT LEAST TWO OF THE MULTI-PARCEL SCENIC RIDGELINES, AS  
12 IDENTIFIED ON THE ORDINANCE MAP, ARE LOCATED ABOVE US, ONE  
13 ALONG CANAAN ROAD AND ONE ON MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY. THESE ARE AS  
14 MUCH AS A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE ELEVATION OF SEMINOLE  
15 SPRINGS. AND I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT THERE ARE NO MORE  
16 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SANTA MONICAS. WELL, WE HAVE  
17 A 500-ACRE PROPERTY ABOVE US, WHICH INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE OF  
18 THESE RIDGELINES, WHICH, EVEN IF IT ONLY ALLOWS ONE HOUSE PER  
19 20 ACRES, IS STILL A 25-HOUSE DEVELOPMENT. RESTRICTING GRADING  
20 ON THESE RIDGELINES WILL CERTAINLY HELP PRESERVE OUR SCENIC  
21 VIEWS AND IT WILL ALSO HELP TO PROTECT SIERRA CREEK, WHICH  
22 RUNS DOWN FROM THESE TREE AND CHAPARRAL-COVERED SLOPES THROUGH  
23 SEMINOLE SPRINGS, FEEDING A LAKE AND A RIPARIAN WETLAND THAT  
24 IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS DIVERSE NATIVE ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE. I  
25 BELIEVE THAT THIS ORDINANCE WILL HELP KEEP THE WATER THAT



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1 FLOWS IN SIERRA CREEK AS CLEAN AND PRISTINE AS IT IS NOW. A  
2 GREAT DEAL OF DISTURBANCE, IF ALLOWED IN THIS WATERSHED, WILL  
3 IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY THIS CREEK AND LAKE SYSTEM AND THE  
4 EFFECTS WILL BE FELT ALL THE WAY TO MALIBU LAGOONS SINCE  
5 SIERRA CREEK, WHICH IS WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES, IS A  
6 TRIBUTARY OF TRIUMPHAL AND MALIBU CREEKS. THE EROSION AND  
7 INCREASED RUNOFF AND SEDIMENTATION ARE GOING TO BE A GREAT  
8 IMPACT ON THESE WATERS.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IF YOU COULD WRAP IT UP.

11

12 **PENNY SUESS:** WATER, ESPECIALLY PURE WATER, IS A PRECIOUS  
13 COMMODITY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND I THINK WE NEED THIS  
14 ORDINANCE TO HELP US PROTECT SOME OF THE WATERS IN THE SANTA  
15 MONICA THAT ARE, AT THIS POINT, VERY CLEAR AND CLEAN. THANK  
16 YOU.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

19

20 **NICK NOXON:** MY NAME IS NICK NOXON. I LIVE AT 2305 SIERRA CREEK  
21 ROAD IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF SANTA MONICAS. I FAVOR  
22 THESE ORDINANCES AND I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT MANY  
23 PEOPLE WHO DO CANNOT BE HERE TODAY. THEY HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED  
24 PLANNING COMMISSION HEARINGS IN LARGE NUMBERS AND MADE THEIR  
25 VIEWS KNOWN AND I HOPE YOU'LL LOOK BACK ON THAT RECORD TO SEE





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1 THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT THAT IS OUT THERE. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT  
2 TO BE HERE DURING THE WEEK UNLESS YOU ARE BEING PAID TO DO SO.  
3 NOW, REGARDING THESE REGULATIONS, I'M SURE PEOPLE WONDER IF WE  
4 REALLY NEED THEM. THEY WILL ASK, WHO WOULD BE SO INSENSITIVE  
5 AS TO BUILD IN A WAY THAT WOULD SPOIL THE VIEW OF THOUSANDS,  
6 ERASING NATURAL RIDGELINES IN A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA? WHO  
7 WOULD WANT TO GRADE A HILLSIDE OR A BUILDING PAD SO DEEPLY  
8 THAT A PRIVATE HOME WOULD DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE LIKE FEUDAL  
9 CASTLES DID HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO? AND EVEN IF THEY DID WANT  
10 TO, WHO HAS THE MONEY TO DO SUCH A THING AND WHY WOULD THEY DO  
11 IT? WELL, IN THE LAST YEAR, THE L.A. TIMES HAS WRITTEN ABOUT A  
12 MAN WHO WANTS TO BUILD A HOME ON ONE OF THE HIGHEST POINTS IN  
13 THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. IT WON'T BE HIS ONLY HOME. HE  
14 ALREADY HAS HOUSES IN FOUR OTHER STATES AND MEXICO. IT'LL BE A  
15 WEEKEND HOME. HE WILL VISIT FROM TIME TO TIME SO THAT HE CAN  
16 ENJOY THE VIEW. AND, IN HIS HOUSE, HE IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO  
17 DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT IT. THIS MAN APPARENTLY WANTS HIS HOME  
18 SO MUCH THAT HE STARTED GRADING ROADS FOR IT WITHOUT PERMITS  
19 WHATSOEVER AND IS ACCUSED OF DOING IT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS  
20 FEDERAL LAND. ACCORDING TO THE L.A. TIMES, THIS MAN LIKES TO  
21 THINK OF HIMSELF AS A BULLDOG AND SAYS HE ENJOYS FLOUTING THE  
22 LAW AND FIGHTING ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STOP HIM. HE SAYS HE  
23 LOOKS FORWARD TO THE CONTROVERSY THAT HE HAS CREATED. HE SAYS  
24 IT IS HIS RECREATION. PAYING LAWYERS IS NO PROBLEM, HE SAYS,  
25 HE DEDUCTS THEM AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE. SO WHY DO WE NEED THESE



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1 REGULATIONS? BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THIS MAN WHO  
2 SEEMINGLY WILL RUIN A MOUNTAIN JUST TO RUB OUR NOSES IN IT.  
3 THANK YOU.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ] [ GAVEL ]

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. DEBORAH WEISS, RUSSEU RAMAS, AND RON  
8 TRONCALTY. ALL RIGHT? AND, SIR, YOU ARE?

9

10 **SPEAKER:** (OFF-MIKE)

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. IS RON HERE? OKAY. BRIAN CONNORS? IS  
13 BRIAN CONNORS HERE? EDWARD KHMARA. OKAY, EDWARD. COME ON UP.  
14 OKAY. GO AHEAD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** I KNOW WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME. I HAVE A  
17 COMPLETE STATEMENT THAT I'D LIKE TO PASS OUT FOR EVERYBODY'S  
18 REVIEW. I'M GOING TO GET TO THE REAL CRUX OF THE ISSUE. THE  
19 RIDGELINE ORDINANCE, AS IT'S CURRENTLY WRITTEN-- I WANT TO  
20 BACK UP A LITTLE BIT. I GREW UP IN LOBO CANYON, WHICH IS PART  
21 OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. MY PARENTS STILL LIVE THERE. I  
22 HAD THE BENEFIT OF PLAYING IN THOSE MOUNTAINS AS A CHILD AND I  
23 REALLY DO APPRECIATE THEM. I AM THE LAST PERSON THAT WANTS TO  
24 BE A GRADING RIDGELINE OR ANYONE ACTUALLY GRADE ON A  
25 RIDGELINE. HOWEVER, THIS ORDINANCE, AS WRITTEN, IS NOT THE



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1 TICKET THAT WE NEED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT OUR  
2 RIDGELINES. AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON WHY WE NEED TO SEND THIS  
3 BACK IS BECAUSE OF THE C.U.P.S. THEY'RE UNCALLED FOR. AND THE  
4 ONE THING THAT I'M REALLY SURPRISED ABOUT, AND I HEAR PEOPLE  
5 DANCING AROUND THE NUMBER, IS THE FACT THAT THIS IS AN  
6 ORDINANCE THAT HAS LIMITED THE NUMBER OF CUBIC YARDS TO BE  
7 GRADED TO ACTUALLY 2,500, WHICH IS 97.5% OF THE CURRENT  
8 LIMITATION. IT'S NOT 5,000, IT'S 2,500. AND ALL THE  
9 CALCULATIONS THAT WERE PUT ON THE WEBSITE ARE ERRONEOUS THAT  
10 CAME TO THIS 5,000 CUBIC YARD DETERMINATION. IF YOU LOOK AT  
11 THE PERMITS THAT WERE POLLED FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES OVER  
12 THE LAST TWO YEARS, AS POSTED ON THE REGIONAL PLANNING'S  
13 WEBSITE, YOU WILL SEE THAT NOT 50% OF THEM WOULD HAVE REQUIRED  
14 A C.U.P. UNDER THIS ORDINANCE, BUT 68% OF THEM WOULD HAVE  
15 REQUIRED A C.U.P. UNDER THIS ORDINANCE. THIS IS DECEIVING BY  
16 ITS NATURE AND IT'S NOT THE CORRECT BASIS TO BE ABLE TO SAY  
17 THIS IS A GOOD NUMBER THAT WE SHOULD BE USING AS A LIMITATION  
18 FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRADED AREA ON A PROPERTY. FOR THIS  
19 REASON ALONE, THIS ORDINANCE NEEDS TO GO BACK TO REGIONAL  
20 PLANNING FOR REVIEW. AGAIN, I AM NOT OPPOSED TO A RIDGELINE  
21 ORDINANCE. I'M ALL FOR PROTECTING THE RIDGELINE. BUT WE NEED  
22 TO PROTECT THE STEWARDS OF THIS LAND WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO  
23 TRULY LIVE AMONG IT. WE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT GO THERE EVERY DAY  
24 AS OPPOSED TO THE VISITORS THAT COME THERE. WE LIVE THERE AND  
25 THE LAST THING WE WANT TO SEE HAPPEN IN OUR COMMUNITY IS



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1 PEOPLE TEAR DOWN RIDGELINES IN ORDER TO BUILD HOUSES. BUT WE  
2 NEED TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIVE IN THAT COMMUNITY  
3 AS WELL AND SUPPORT THEM IN THIS MEASURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
4 [ APPLAUSE ]

5

6 **SPEAKER:** HI. I ACTUALLY HAVE A LETTER FROM MY NEIGHBOR, NANCY  
7 AGNEW, WHO COULDN'T BE HERE IN OPPOSITION TO THE ORDINANCE AND  
8 THEN I ALSO BROUGHT COPIES OF A RECENT L.A. TIMES ARTICLE THAT  
9 TALKS ABOUT, I THINK IT'S MEASURE "M" IN VENTURA TO INCREASE  
10 THE SALES TAX IN ORDER TO FUND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND  
11 PROTECTING OPEN SPACES. SO I JUST HANDED THAT OUT TO PASS IT  
12 AROUND FOR YOUR INTEREST. I HAVE A FEW POINTS I'D LIKE TO  
13 MAKE. FIRST WITH RESPECT TO FIRE. PEOPLE HAVE MENTIONED, ON  
14 AND OFF, ABOUT THE DENSITY AND, WHERE I AM IN TOPANGA, IT'S  
15 ONE HOUSE PER 20 ACRES BASED UPON THE NORTH AREA PLAN. SO IT'S  
16 NOT-- IF YOU LOOK AT IT NOW, WITH ONE HOUSE PER 20 ACRES, IT  
17 IS NOT GOING TO BE A BLIGHT ON THE RIDGELINE. THERE ARE VERY  
18 FEW HOUSES AND MY NEIGHBORS, WHO HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN, ARE IN  
19 FAVOR OF ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES TO PROTECT THE BEAUTY OF THE  
20 RIDGELINE. WE'RE NOT OPPOSED TO THAT AND WE'RE HERE AND READY  
21 TO WORK WITH THE SUPERVISORS TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING TO KEEP  
22 THE RIDGELINE BEAUTIFUL. I AM STRUCK BY THE ARBITRARY  
23 DEFINITION OF "RIDGELINE"-- "SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE," EXCUSE ME  
24 -- IF IT'S ONE THAT HAS SKY BEHIND IT OR IF IT'S A RIDGELINE  
25 THAT YOU CAN'T SEE BECAUSE THERE'S A TALLER RIDGELINE BEHIND



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1 IT AND THAT JUST SEEMS INCONGRUOUS TO ME TO THEN HAVE THESE  
2 RIDGELINES THAT ARE BELOW A HIGHER RIDGELINE. LET ME SEE.  
3 ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT I HAVE HAS TO DO WITH-- I FIND THIS IS  
4 CONTRARY TO THE STATE POLICY. THE STATE HAS MADE A FINDING  
5 THAT THERE IS A HOUSING SHORTAGE AND HAS ACTUALLY ENACTED LAWS  
6 TO PROMOTE BUILDING GRANNY UNITS SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE YOUR  
7 FAMILY LIVE WITH YOU. AND THIS COUNTY PLAN SEEMS TO VIOLATE  
8 THAT AND IMPACT THE ABILITIES OF FAMILIES TO LIVE TOGETHER. MY  
9 PARENTS ARE QUITE ELDERLY AND I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
10 HAVE THEM LIVE WITH ME AND I DON'T HAVE THAT UNDER THE  
11 PROPOSED ORDINANCE. AND, FINALLY, I BELIEVE THAT, IF PEOPLE  
12 REALLY WANT THE NATIONAL PARK FEEL, THAT WE ARE OBLIGATED TO  
13 PAY FOR IT AS THEY HAVE ON THE BALLOT IN VENTURA COUNTY.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MR. KHMARA?

16

17 **EDWARD KHMARA:** MY NAME IS ED KHMARA, I LIVE AT 32071 LOBO  
18 CANYON ROAD. I'VE LIVED IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS SINCE  
19 1981 AND I'M A NATIVE CALIFORNIAN. I GREW UP HERE AND I'VE  
20 SEEN THE CHANGES THAT HAVE HAPPENED OVER THE YEARS AND, LIKE  
21 MANY PEOPLE HERE THAT ARE OPPOSED TO THIS ORDINANCE, WE DON'T  
22 LIKE TO SEE THE HOUSES, HUGE HOUSES BUILT UP ON THE RIDGELINES  
23 AND WE DON'T LIKE TO SEE THE PEOPLE GRADING AREAS JUST IN THE  
24 HOPE THAT THEY CAN SELL THEIR PROPERTY. BUT WHAT REALLY  
25 TROUBLES ME HERE, AND I THINK SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, YOU HAD



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1 A VERY GOOD IDEA WHEN YOU SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A BIG HELP IF  
2 THE 15,000-FOOT REQUIREMENT WOULD GO, BUT I FEEL AT THE SAME  
3 TIME THAT BEING ABLE TO GRADE A MERE-- TO MOVE A MERE 2,500  
4 FEET OF DIRT, IT'S LESS THAN IT SEEMS LIKE. IF YOU'RE BUILDING  
5 A HOUSE, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS, YOU HAVE TO DIG IT UP AND PUT IT  
6 BACK AND COMPACT IT. AND, IF YOU'RE BUILDING AN ARENA AND  
7 DOING IT PROPERLY, YOU HAVE TO DO THE SAME THING. MY REAL  
8 CONCERN WITH THIS ORDINANCE IS THAT YOU DON'T DRIVE OUT THOSE  
9 VERY RURAL ACTIVITIES THAT YOU SAY AT LEAST THAT YOU WANT TO  
10 PROTECT. THANK YOU.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. DANA NINEBERG, PETER  
13 GREENWOOD, AND ISABEL SNYDER. ITEM NUMBER 24, COUNTY COUNSEL  
14 IS ALSO REQUESTING THAT ITEM BE RECONSIDERED FOR THE PURPOSE  
15 OF APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AND CONTINUE THE CORRECTIVE ACTION  
16 PLAN FOR ONE WEEK. IT'S BEEN MOVED TO RECONSIDER. THE CHAIR  
17 WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. WE WILL APPROVE  
18 THE SETTLEMENT AND CONTINUE THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN. MOVED  
19 BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, THE CHAIR WILL SECOND. WITHOUT  
20 OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. OKAY.

21

22 **DANA SHEPHERD NINEBERG:** YOU CALLED ME FIRST, I'LL SPEAK FIRST.  
23 DANA SHEPHERD NINEBERG, 133 PAYU DRIVE, CORNELL. I WANT TO  
24 THANK THE SUPERVISORS FOR LETTING US ALL SPEAK TODAY AND I  
25 HOPE YOU'RE NOT AS HUNGRY AS I AM AT THIS TIME.





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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** (CHUCKLING). WELL, DON'T COUNT ON IT.

3

4 **DANA NINEBERG:** BECAUSE IT'S TOUGH TO MAKE A DECISION. YES, I  
5 ADMIRE YOUR TENACITY. I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR AWHILE, SO I WAS NOT  
6 VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS PARTICULAR PLAN. BUT SITTING HERE  
7 TODAY, I'VE LEARNED A LOT MORE ABOUT IT. AND, FOR THE  
8 APPROVED, WHICH I AM FOR, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF ORGANIZATIONS  
9 BEING REPRESENTED AND I THINK THAT THEIR VOICE NEEDS TO BE  
10 HEARD. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RISKING THEIR LIVES IN THE  
11 MOUNTAINS TO SAVE OUR HOMES AND SAVE OUR HORSES AND OUR  
12 ANIMALS. I ADMIRE THAT, THAT THEY CAME FORWARD TO SAY THE  
13 DIFFERENT DANGERS THAT ARE INVOLVED. ANOTHER DANGER THAT I  
14 LIVE BY EVERY DAY IS, IN THE AREA THAT I AM, MEL GIBSON IS  
15 BUILDING HIS MISSION. AND TALK ABOUT GRADING, THERE IS A LOT  
16 OF GRADING IN THAT PARTICULAR CONSTRUCTION. AND, ALSO, THEY  
17 HAVE BLOWN UP THE MOUNTAIN THERE TO PUT THEIR MISSION. I HAVE  
18 A HORSE. I'M AN EQUESTRIAN AND I LIKE TO RIDE TO PARAMOUNT  
19 RANCH, I LIKE TO RIDE TO MALIBU CREEK, BUT I CAN NO LONGER DO  
20 THAT SAFELY ANY LONGER BECAUSE I THINK THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE  
21 TO PLAN BETTER ABOUT HOW LONG THESE ISSUES ARE GOING TO GO ON  
22 FOR. AND I'M IN JEOPARDY NOW RIDING ALONG MULHOLLAND BECAUSE  
23 OF ALL THE CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC THAT WAS NEVER PLANNED FOR  
24 PROPERLY.

25



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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. YES?

2

3    **ISABEL SNYDER:** HONORABLE SUPERVISORS, I'M ISABEL SNYDER, GROUP  
4    OF-- PART OF A GROUP OF S.O.S. AND I'M IN SUPPORT OF THE  
5    ORDINANCE. AND I ACTUALLY WISHED THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL STOP  
6    TO ANY CONSTRUCTION OF ANY OF THE RIDGELINES. NOW, THAT MIGHT  
7    BE A LITTLE BIT EXTREME BUT I HAVE A GREAT UNDERSTANDING THIS  
8    YOU'RE DOING AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT JOB TO PUTTING SOMETHING  
9    INTO WORKS THAT PUTS A STOP TO THE RIGHT TO EVERY PERSON TO  
10   BUILD THEIR HOMES. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT THIS URBAN AREA IS  
11   SO OVERPOPULATED AND SO BIG. WE DO HAVE SUCH A NEED TO AN AREA  
12   THAT IS NOT TOTALLY DEGRADED INTO AN URBAN SPRAWL, LIKE THE  
13   HOLLYWOOD HILLS, AND I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORT TO TRY TO  
14   PRESERVE THIS INCREDIBLY MAGNIFICENT AREA HERE THAT IS TRULY  
15   INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL AND MAKE AN EFFORT TO KEEP SOME OF THE  
16   OPEN SPACES. AND I WANTED TO ALSO ADDRESS THAT I'VE NEVER,  
17   EVER SEEN, IN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND I'M A PHOTOGRAPHER, I  
18   TRAVEL THE WHOLE WORLD, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH GRADING FOR  
19   A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE NEED TO GRADE  
20   THAT MUCH! I HAVE SEEN HOUSES IN COLORADO THAT ARE BUILT ON  
21   SMALL LOTS AND THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL BIG HOUSES. I DON'T  
22   UNDERSTAND THAT WHOLE-- MAYBE IT HAS TO DO WITH THE UNSAFE  
23   EARTH. I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON THAT BUT I'M SURE THERE IS A  
24   REASON TO THAT. BUT I ALSO THINK THERE IS A REASON TO POWER,  
25   GREED AND EGO THAT WE NEED TO BUILD THESE HUMONGOUS HOUSES



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1 MOST PROBABLY ON THE RIDGELINE AND IT'S NOT REALLY A  
2 NECESSITY. SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO MAKE FOR  
3 EVERYBODY TO PRESERVE SOMETHING.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

6

7 **PETER GREENWOOD:** MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, MY NAME  
8 IS PETER GREENWOOD. I LIVE AT 1936 FLATHEAD TRAIL, MALIBU  
9 LAKESIDE COMMUNITY. I'M A HOMEOWNER THERE AND I'M A MEMBER OF  
10 THE LOCAL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. I'M ALSO ACTIVE IN THE LAS  
11 VIRGINIAS WATERSHED TASK FORCE. I'M SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF THE  
12 ORDINANCE. THAT'S BECAUSE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT'S A--  
13 REPRESENTS THE FINAL PRODUCT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND EXHAUSTIVE  
14 PLANNING PROCESS. I COMPLIMENT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR  
15 BRINGING THIS ORDINANCE TO PASS, BRINGING IT UP. IT MAKES GOOD  
16 SENSE. WHAT WE DON'T NEED AND WHAT THIS ARGUMENT HAS BROUGHT  
17 FORWARD, WE'RE ARGUING ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO FIT A 30,000-  
18 SQUARE-FOOT RIDING ARENA ON A RIDGELINE. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE  
19 SENSE. WHO WOULD WANT TO LIVE DOWNSTREAM BELOW SUCH A  
20 FACILITY? WHO WOULD WANT TO BE TANGLING WITH ALL THE TRUCKS  
21 THAT ARE GOING TO HAUL THOSE THOUSANDS OF YARDS OF FILL OFF  
22 THOSE HILLSIDES ON CANAAN, ON MULHOLLAND, AND CORNELL ROADS?  
23 FAILURE TO PASS THIS ORDINANCE WILL PERMIT THE DEGRADATION OF  
24 A RECREATION AREA THAT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE TAXPAYERS



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1 HAVE INVESTED IN MIGHTILY. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING. THANK  
2 YOU.

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. ASK BRIAN BRANNAN, STEVE GILBARD  
5 AND SUSAN MORRIS, IF THEY'RE STILL HERE. DID SOMEONE SAY SUSAN  
6 IS GONE? OKAY. AND BRIAN LEFT? OKAY. ALL RIGHT. THEN MIA  
7 BOUDREAU. PARDON ME? RICHARD MANDEL. PHILLIP ATWELL. BILL  
8 WHITEMAN. MICHAEL WATERS. OKAY. GO AHEAD, SIR.

9

10 **STEVE GILBARD:** GOOD EVENING. SORRY.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALMOST. [ LAUGHTER ]

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DIDN'T MISS IT BY FAR, SIR. GOOD TRY. [  
15 LAUGHTER ]

16

17 **STEVE GILBARD:** MY NAME IS STEVE GILBARD AND I'VE LIVED ON  
18 TRIUMPHAL CANYON ROAD FOR 14 YEARS. I'M HERE AS A POSTER CHILD  
19 FOR THE INTENT OF THE ORDINANCE BUT STRONGLY REQUEST CHANGES  
20 TO THE WAY IT'S WRITTEN. I SUPPORTED THE NORTH AREA PLAN  
21 THROUGHOUT ITS LONG PROGRESS. I SPEAK AS A PROPERTY OWNER WITH  
22 10 ACRES, A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME, A POOL, A YARD, A RIDING ARENA  
23 AND A 20 X 1,100-FOOT DRIVEWAY THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
24 REQUIRED US TO PUT IN. IN DOING ALL OF THIS, WE MOVED LESS  
25 THAN 1,800 CUBIC YARDS BUT THAT'S BECAUSE WE MADE EVERYTHING



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1 CONFORM TO WHAT THE LAND WAS. IF YOU LOOK AT THAT, OF COURSE,  
2 THAT 1,800 BECOMES 3,600, SO WE APPROACHED TWO-THIRDS OF WHAT  
3 THEY ALLOWED AND WE BASICALLY GRADED A FLAT ROAD UP AN  
4 EXISTING HILLSIDE. JENNY KRUEGER HAS BEEN TO OUR PROPERTY.  
5 SHE'S SEEN IT. THIS IS NOT A CUT-AND-FILL JOB. WHEN YOU ADD UP  
6 OUR EXISTING PAD, YOU'LL FIND THAT, EVEN THOUGH WE DID NOT  
7 EXCEED THE PROPOSED GRADING, BY WORKING WITH THE LAND INSTEAD  
8 OF CHANGING IT, OUR PAD, AS DEFINED BY THIS ORDINANCE, IS OVER  
9 80,000 SQUARE FEET. THE 15,000 SQUARE FOOT SECTION OF THIS IS  
10 UNREALISTIC AND NEEDS TO BE ADJUSTED. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF  
11 ZONING HAS SAID THE EXISTING GRADING AND PADS ARE NOT COUNTED,  
12 THAT THEY ARE GRANDFATHERED. THIS GRANDFATHERING NEEDS TO BE  
13 PUT INTO THE REGULATION. IT NEEDS TO BE STATED BECAUSE RIGHT  
14 NOW IT'S JUST ANOTHER PROMISE THAT WE'RE WAITING TO BE BROKEN.  
15 THE ORDINANCE NEEDS TO REALLY BE LOOKED AT AS TWO SEPARATE  
16 SECTIONS. I'M ENTIRELY IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING THE RIDGELINES.  
17 I DO NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ON MY PROPERTY. MY  
18 PROPERTY IS SIGNIFICANTLY FINISHED. I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE IT  
19 DOES ANYTHING FOR ME. I'M JUST TRYING IT SAY THAT THE FACT IS  
20 THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE THAT COME BEFORE YOU ON THESE SORT OF  
21 MATTERS ARE GOING TO HAVE AN ISSUE WHERE THEY CAN'T MOVE  
22 FORWARD BECAUSE THIS 15,000 SQUARE FOOT ISN'T REALISTIC AND  
23 THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS IS REALLY ONLY 2,500 AND I DID VERY,  
24 VERY LITTLE. OUR HOUSE WAS ACTUALLY ABOUT-- ALMOST 350 CUBIC  
25 YARDS WAS ALL THAT WAS MOVED TO PUT THE HOUSE DOWN. THANK YOU.



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1

2 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MR. WATERS.

3

4 **MIKE WATERS:** MY NAME IS MIKE WATERS AND MY FAMILY AND I HAVE  
5 LIVED ON A RIDGE SINCE 1963 AT 33560 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY. WE'VE  
6 BEEN THROUGH FIRES THREE TIMES ON THAT RIDGE AND IT HASN'T  
7 BEEN A HAZARD. ONE OF THE REASONS WE LIVE THERE IS BECAUSE OF  
8 THE NATURAL ECOLOGY. WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT. NOW, WE ALREADY  
9 HAVE A ZONING ORDINANCE HERE WHERE ONE HOUSE PER 20 ACRES  
10 PRETTY MUCH STOPS THE GROUPING ON RIDGELINES SINCE THAT  
11 ORDINANCE HAS GONE IN AND IT ALREADY MAKES THE HOMES, ISLANDS  
12 AND THE ECOLOGY, WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE. NOW, WHAT I TAKE  
13 ISSUE WITH IS THE SAME ITEM THAT THE GENTLEMAN THAT JUST SPOKE  
14 TALKED ABOUT. I MEAN, 15,000 SQUARE FEET, THAT'S A 100 BY 150  
15 FEET. THAT'S ABOUT 1-1/2 TIMES THE SIZE OF THIS AUDITORIUM  
16 RIGHT HERE. NOW, IF YOU PUT A HOME AND A TURNAROUND FOR A FIRE  
17 ENGINE AND A DRIVEWAY AND YOU'RE CUTTING INTO A SLOPE THAT'S  
18 20 TO 40 DEGREES, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND, BY THE TIME YOU SET  
19 DOWN THAT AREA ON THAT CUT AND THEN MOVE AND FILL, THAT YOU'VE  
20 EXCEEDED VERY EASILY THAT 15,000 SQUARE FEET. I THINK THAT  
21 NUMBER WAS CONCEIVED FOR SMALL LOTS AND THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER  
22 PEOPLE SPEAKING HERE WHO HAVE TALKED ABOUT LONG DRIVEWAYS AND  
23 LONG ROADS OVER EXISTING EASEMENTS THAT STILL HAVE TO BE PUT  
24 IN PLACE OR RE-GRADED. YOU HAVE TO SOMETIMES CUT AND RE-  
25 COMPACT. NOW, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO REMODEL AND EXPAND WHERE I





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1 AM, AND I'VE ALREADY COUNTED-- CONSULTED WITH THE COUNTY  
2 PLANNING FOR THE BEST WAYS TO DO THIS. I INTEND TO WORK WITH  
3 THE SYSTEM AND I INTEND TO PRESERVE THE ECOLOGY THAT I LOVE  
4 OUT THERE. BUT APPARENTLY NOBODY'S THOUGHT OF IMPROVING THE  
5 ECOLOGY BY USING INNOVATIVE BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.  
6 EVERYBODY LOOKS AT CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION, DOESN'T SEEM TO  
7 EVEN NOTICE WHY IT HAPPENS BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, A DESIGNER IS  
8 LIMITED BY THE LOAN OFFICER AT A BANK, WHO IS APPROVING THE  
9 CONSTRUCTION LOAN AND HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE BUILDING'S  
10 GOING TO BE ASSESSED AT. SO HE KNOWS HE'S GOT HIS COLLATERAL.  
11 SO IF YOU COME IN THERE WITH SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT, HE  
12 DOESN'T APPROVE THE LOAN. SO IT BECOMES VERY EXPENSIVE TO  
13 ACTUALLY DO DESIGN WITH NATURE AND CREATE BUILDINGS AND  
14 STRUCTURES WHICH REALLY WORK, AND THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.

17

18 **MIKE WATERS:** I REALLY THINK THAT 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT LIMIT  
19 NEEDS TO BE CHANGED. ALSO THE 5,000 CUBIC YARD AND ALSO A LOW  
20 COST PROCESS FOR ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
21 RIDGES THAT DOES NOT USE C.U.P.S NEEDS TO BE DONE. SO I THINK  
22 THIS NEEDS TO BE REWORKED BEFORE IT IS PASSED. THANK YOU.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. MURRAY SUMNER. IS MURRAY HERE?  
25 JAMES WRIGLEY. IS MR. WRIGLEY HERE? JOHN LOW.



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1

2 **MURRAY SUMNER:** I HAVE SOME HANDOUTS. I'M MURRAY SUMNER, 28921  
3 CREST DRIVE, MALIBU LAKE. I'M HERE REPRESENTING OUR  
4 ORGANIZATION OF 115 HOUSEHOLDS. I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
5 MALIBU LAKESIDE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION. IN THE INTERESTS OF  
6 BREVITY, I WON'T READ THE LETTER THAT WE HAVE DRAFTED BUT I'LL  
7 PUT INTO RECORD. BASICALLY, THE PROPONENTS OF THIS-- THAT HAVE  
8 SPOKEN PREVIOUSLY HAVE COVERED MOST OF THE POINTS. I WOULD  
9 LIKE TO, HOWEVER, DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH  
10 I HAVE ATTACHED TO THE PRESENTATION. THESE ARE-- THE FIRST SIX  
11 OF THE NINE ARE WHAT I CONSIDER SIGNIFICANT BREACHES OF  
12 RIDGELINES. THEY'RE ALL IDENTIFIED AS TO WHERE THEY ARE. THESE  
13 ARE ALL BLIGHTS ON THE LANDSCAPE, IN MY OPINION. I THINK, IN  
14 TERMS OF QUANTIFYING WHAT THE SIZE OF 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF  
15 MATERIAL IS, IN THE FIVE HOURS I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE, I'VE  
16 ROUGHLY CALCULATED OUT THAT THIS ROOM, THIS AUDITORIUM, IF YOU  
17 LEVELED THE GALLERY, WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 4,000 CUBIC YARDS.  
18 I THINK THAT'S A LOT OF MATERIAL. I URGE YOU, HONORABLE  
19 MEMBERS, TO ACCEPT THIS ORDINANCE AND I APPLAUD THE REGIONAL  
20 PLANNING FOR DRAFTING IT THE WAY IT IS. THANK YOU.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. OKAY. I'M GOING TO ASK YVONNE  
23 AUTRY, IF YOU'D COME UP, PLEASE.

24



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1   **JAMES WRIGLEY:** MY NAME IS JAMES WRIGLEY, I LIVE IN CALABASAS,  
2   AND I WANT TO SPEAK FOR MYSELF, INITIALLY, AND SAY THAT I HAVE  
3   FOUR HORSES ON MY PROPERTY AND, AS THE LITTLE GIRL SAID  
4   PREVIOUSLY, I COULD HAVE EIGHT PER ACRE. THAT WOULD BE ABOUT  
5   14 HORSES AND I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DO THAT. SO I HAVEN'T  
6   FOUND ANY LIMITATION OF HORSE USE WITH YOUR ORDINANCE AND I'M  
7   CERTAINLY IN SUPPORT OF IT. NOW, I WANT TO READ A LETTER THAT  
8   WAS GIVEN TO ME BY DENNIS WASHBURN, WHO IS ON THE CALABASAS  
9   CITY COUNCIL AND I'LL READ IT FOR YOU AND THEN PUT IT IN THE  
10   RECORD. "AS A FOUNDER OF CALABASAS AND CONTINUING MEMBER OF  
11   THE CALABASAS CITY COUNCIL, AND AS A MEMBER OF MANY  
12   ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL, REPRESENTING THE  
13   PEOPLE AND INTERESTS OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, I ASK YOU  
14   TO CONSIDER THE AND INTERESTS OF THE CITY OF CALABASAS  
15   EXPRESSED IN OUR POSITION LETTER. I ALSO ADD MY PERSONAL  
16   SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE AND INTENT OF THE PROSPECTIVE L.A.  
17   COUNTY GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE PROTECTION ORDINANCE  
18   AS A CRITICAL STEP IN IMPLEMENTING THE VISION LAID OUT IN THE  
19   NORTH AREA PLAN THAT WE HAVE CRAFTED AND ENACTED TOGETHER WITH  
20   OUR REGION CITIES. FAILURE TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR  
21   RIDGELINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION WILL MAKE DEVELOPMENT AND  
22   GRADING IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS THE DEFAULT POSITION IN  
23   PLANNING PRACTICES AND ENCOURAGE DEVELOPER APPLICATIONS THAT  
24   CONTINUE TO PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE REMAINING RIDGELINES IN  
25   THESE RARE MOUNTAINS. IN THE FACE OF PERNICIOUS ECONOMIC



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1    CRISES IN FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL FINANCIAL STRUCTURES,  
2    WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO EXACERBATE THE UNDER FUNDED PLANNING,  
3    MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT BURDENS OF L.A. COUNTY LAND USE  
4    POLICIES. THIS ORDINANCE IS THE BEST PREVENTATIVE MEASURE WE  
5    CAN CREATE UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IT CAN HELP  
6    CONSERVE THE VISUAL QUALITY OF THE MOUNTAINS, ADDRESS THE  
7    CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS,  
8    PROMOTE CREATIVITY AND LAND USE PRACTICES AT ALL LEVELS AND  
9    PREVENT UNDUE COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE MOUNTAINS. THE SANTA  
10    MONICA MOUNTAINS GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ORDINANCE  
11    IS A NECESSITY AND SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY OUR LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
12    BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. SINCERELY, DENNIS WASHBURN."

13

14    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. STEVE, COULD YOU PICK UP THAT  
15    LETTER? WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT'S PART OF THE RECORD. MR. LOW?

16

17    **JOHN LOW:** HONORABLE SUPERVISORS, MY NAME IS JOHN LOW. I'M  
18    PRESIDENT OF THE MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION,  
19    WHICH IS A COMMUNITY OF ABOUT 300 HOUSES IN THE SANTA MONICA  
20    MOUNTAINS JUST EAST OF MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK.

21

22    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** HOW MANY HOMES HAVE THEY DEVELOPED? 300?

23

24    **JOHN LOW:** IT'S ABOUT 300. IT'S NOT A DEVELOPMENT, IT'S A  
25    COMMUNITY. WE ARE STRONG AND HAVE BEEN STRONG SUPPORTERS OF



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1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AREA PLAN AND WE ALSO SUPPORT  
2 THIS ORDINANCE VERY STRONGLY AS WELL. WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE  
3 WORK OF OUR SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
4 STAFF IN DEVELOPING IT. GRADING HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON  
5 THE LAND, SOMETIMES A FAIRLY PERMANENT IMPACT ON THE LAND WHEN  
6 YOU CONSIDER THAT A LOT OF THINGS DON'T GET PUT BACK IF  
7 THEY'RE NOT USED, PARTICULARLY IN A STEEP MOUNTAINOUS AREA.  
8 AND IT SEEMS PERFECTLY REASONABLE TO REQUIRE THAT PROJECTS  
9 MEET STANDARDS THAT REFLECT THE VALUE AND FRAGILITY OF THE  
10 MOUNTAINS. THIS ORDINANCE IS A WELL THOUGHT OUT APPLICATION OF  
11 THE NORTH AREA PLAN, WE BELIEVE, AND IT'S BEEN THOROUGHLY  
12 VETTED IN PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND HEARINGS OVER THE PAST, WELL,  
13 SEVERAL YEARS AND CERTAINLY THE PAST YEAR. AND THIS ORDINANCE,  
14 IT DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT AND WE STRONGLY URGE YOU THAT YOU ACT  
15 TODAY IT APPROVE IT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. YVONNE?

18

19 **YVONNE MICHELLE AUTRY:** GOOD AFTERNOON. THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER  
20 OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD. MY NAME IS YVONNE MICHELLE  
21 AUTRY AND, ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ADDRESS ITEM 23, WHICH YOU  
22 POSTPONED IT UNTIL NEXT WEEK, SO-- BUT ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW...

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, YOU SIGNED UP UNDER ITEM 11, TOO.

25



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1 **YVONNE MICHELLE AUTRY:** I DID. I DID. BUT I JUST SIGNED UP JUST  
2 NOW, ACTUALLY, ABOUT 10 MINUTES AGO, SO THANK YOU FOR HEARING  
3 ME. AFTER LISTENING FOR ABOUT FIVE-- WAS ABOUT THREE OR FOUR  
4 HOURS, I DON'T WANT TO EXAGGERATE, I'M REALLY VERY INTERESTED  
5 AND I'M MOVED BY THESE PEOPLE'S ZEST AND ZEAL AND THEIR  
6 PASSION IN PROTECTING THEIR ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE I TRY TO BE AN  
7 ENVIRONMENTALIST. I'M A VEGETARIAN AND PEDESTRIAN OUT OF  
8 NECESSITY AND I JUST WOULD URGE YOU TO-- BUT I DON'T KNOW  
9 WHICH IS, YOU KNOW, THE RIGHT DECISION TO MAKE, ACTUALLY. I  
10 DON'T LIVE IN SANTA MONICA. I LIVE HERE ON SIXTH STREET, YOU  
11 KNOW, BUT I MUST SAY THAT, IN LISTENING, YOU KNOW, I HAVE TO  
12 SPEAK IN DEFENSE OF THE LAND AND PRESERVING-- I JUST URGE YOU  
13 TO PROTECTED THE PRISTINE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS MUCH AS YOU  
14 CAN, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WILDLIFE WHO  
15 HAD, YOU KNOW, A FEW PEOPLE IN DEFENSE OF THE WILDLIFE BECAUSE  
16 GOD CREATED THIS EARTH FOR THEM AS WELL AS US. AS A MATTER OF  
17 FACT, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE COMPANIONS BUT WHERE ARE THEY  
18 SUPPOSED TO GO WHEN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT IS BEING, YOU KNOW,  
19 ENCROACHED? AND TALK ABOUT EROSION, WHERE ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO  
20 GO? NO WONDER THAT THEY'RE HOSTILE. ALSO, AS AN ANIMAL LOVER  
21 AND ESPECIALLY ONE WHO LOVES HORSES, I'M A CHRISTIAN BUT I'M  
22 ALSO A HORSE IN CHINESE ASTROLOGY, ANYWAY, THE POINT IS THAT,  
23 YOU KNOW, I HOPE YOU WOULD DO THE BEST, YOU KNOW, FOR THE  
24 ANIMALS, THE MOUNTAIN LIONS, THE HORSES, ALL INVOLVED AND  
25 ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THERE WAS SOME TYPE OF





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1 PROGRAM FOR THE GANG BANGERS, FOR THE REHABILITATION RE-  
2 SOCIALIZATION OF A LOT OF OUR CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN INTO  
3 VIOLENT HOMES AND IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY'RE SOMETIMES  
4 HARASSED BY POLICE. I TALK ABOUT THAT ALL THE TIME. THIS WILL  
5 GIVE THEM AN OUTLET SO THAT THEY CAN LEARN ABOUT PRESERVING  
6 LIFE AND WORKING AND LIVING IN HARMONY. SO PLEASE MAKE YOUR  
7 DECISION IN REGARD TO ALL THE COMMENTS YOU'VE HEARD TODAY AND  
8 REMEMBER, THE LAND IS SACRED.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU.

11

12 **YVONNE MICHELLE AUTRY:** CAN I JUST WRAP IT UP REALLY QUICKLY,  
13 SUPERVISOR KNABE? I WANTED TO READ THIS SCRIPTURE. IT'S ABOUT  
14 THE PRESERVATION OF THE LAND. I TRY TO BE CHRISTIAN. THIS  
15 COMES FROM REVELATION 18: "AND THE NATIONS WERE VERY ANGRY AND  
16 MY WRATH HAS COME AND THE TIME OF THE DEAD, THAT THEY SHOULD  
17 BE JUDGED, THAT THOU SHOULD GIVE US REWARD UNTO THE SAINTS,  
18 THE PROPHETS, THAT FEAR THY NAME, TO THE SMALL AND THE GREAT  
19 AND SHOULD DESTROY THEM WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH", SO PLEASE  
20 DON'T BE COUNTED IN THAT NUMBER. LET'S TRY TO PRESERVE WHAT WE  
21 HAVE LEFT.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THANK YOU. THANK YOU. I KNOW THIS IS A VERY  
24 SAD MOMENT FOR EVERYONE BUT THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO TESTIFY. [  
25 LAUGHTER ]



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN?

3

4 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I DO WANT TO SAY, FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT  
5 HAVE REMAINED AND WE STILL HAVE THE ISSUE BEFORE US, THAT I  
6 APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR AS MANY PEOPLE  
7 AS CAME THROUGH HERE TODAY, YOU ARE A VERY UNDERSTANDING GROUP  
8 AND-- ON BOTH SIDES. AND I JUST WANT TO SAY, AS A CHAIR, I  
9 APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION TODAY. SO, WITH THAT, THE ITEM'S  
10 BEFORE THAT.

11

12 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN?

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES?

15

16 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, FIRST OF ALL, LET ME THANK YOU  
17 FOR CONDUCTING AN EXCELLENT HEARING AND IT'S NOT EASY UNLESS  
18 YOU SAT IN THAT CHAIR AND I APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH. GIVE HIM  
19 A HAND. GIVE HIM A HAND. [ APPLAUSE ]

20

21 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** SECONDLY, I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE  
22 PUBLIC WHO ARE HERE, NOT JUST TODAY BUT WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE  
23 PLANNING COMMISSION HEARINGS, WHO HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH ME  
24 THROUGH MAIL AND TO MY STAFF, THROUGH MAIL AND E-MAIL AND  
25 OTHER WAYS. I'M NOT GOING TO THANK THOSE PEOPLE WHO SUED MY



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1 STAFF BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. BUT, SERIOUSLY, I APPRECIATE  
2 THE INPUT AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVERY PIECE OF INPUT  
3 THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ME AND TO MY OFFICE HAS BEEN  
4 REVIEWED AND HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY ME PERSONALLY. I'VE READ  
5 EVERY PIECE OF MAIL THAT'S BEEN SENT TO ME, EVERY PIECE OF E-  
6 MAIL THAT I'VE RECEIVED ON BOTH SIDES. I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE A  
7 LOT OF TIME, MR. CHAIRMAN. I HAVE A MOTION I WANT TO MAKE BUT  
8 I FIRST WANT TO ASK A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS OF THE STAFF. I WANT  
9 TO ASK THE COUNTY COUNSEL IF THERE ARE ANY AMENDMENTS AT THIS  
10 POINT THAT YOU ARE-- THAT YOU WANT TO-- ANY SUGGESTED  
11 AMENDMENTS THAT YOU WANT TO MAKE AT THIS POINT IN TIME AFTER  
12 HEARING THE TESTIMONY AND THE DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD EARLIER?  
13

14 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY, THE ONE THAT  
15 WE WOULD RECOMMEND IS THE ONE THAT I MENTIONED EARLIER AND  
16 THAT WOULD BE TO CLARIFY THE APPLICABILITY LANGUAGE TO MAKE IT  
17 CLEAR THAT NOT ONLY PROJECTS THAT ARE IN THE PIPELINE THAT  
18 HAVE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS THAT ARE READY FOR HEARING BE  
19 EXEMPT FROM THE NEW REGULATIONS BUT ALSO THOSE PROJECTS THAT  
20 HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WHERE THE ANTICIPATED GRADING  
21 WAS CLEARLY DEPICTED, SO LONG AS THE ACTUAL GRADING IS IN  
22 SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMANCE WITH THE APPROVED GRADING.

23

24 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. I WILL ASK THAT THAT BE, WHEN I MAKE  
25 MY MOTION, THAT THAT BE INCORPORATED INTO THE MOTION. I WOULD



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1 NOW LIKE TO ASK THE PLANNING STAFF WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY  
2 SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE RIDGELINE MAP. THERE WAS  
3 DISCUSSION, BOTH HERE AND PREVIOUS, IN WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE.  
4 COULD YOU PLEASE ADDRESS THAT?

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, WHILE YOU'RE ADDRESSING THAT, COULD  
7 YOU ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE SEPARATION BETWEEN THE RIDGELINE  
8 AND THE GRADING? I MEAN, THERE WAS A LOT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT  
9 THAT TODAY, AS YOU RESPOND TO MR. YAROSLAVSKY'S QUESTION, THE  
10 POSSIBILITY.

11

12 **RON HOFFMAN:** CERTAINLY. YES. IN RESPONSE TO THE RIDGELINE MAP  
13 QUESTION, AS DISCUSSED IN THE PRESENTATION, THE STAFF IS  
14 SUGGESTING SEVERAL CHANGES TO THE RIDGELINE MAP. THESE CAME  
15 ABOUT AS A RESULT OF APPROXIMATELY-- WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO  
16 SAY APPROXIMATELY-- 44 PRECISE REQUESTS TO LOOK AT PROPERTY.  
17 WE LOOKED AT 44 INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF PROPERTY, LOOKED AT THE  
18 RIDGELINES AND DETERMINED THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE THREE  
19 CHANGES TO THE MAP. THOSE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED ON THE MAP  
20 THAT IS LOCATED ON THE WALL BEHIND YOU AS WELL AS THE MAP  
21 INCORPORATES THE CRITERIA THAT WERE USED TO IDENTIFY THE  
22 RIDGELINES. AND WE WANT TO CLARIFY, TOO, THAT THE MAP WILL BE  
23 ADOPTED AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT ORDINANCE.  
24 ANY RIDGELINES THAT WERE SHOWN ON THE MAP THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF  
25 THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT AREA WERE ONLY THERE FOR



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1 ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES AND THEY WILL BE REMOVED. THESE ARE  
2 AREAS WITHIN THE COASTAL ZONE AND AREAS WITHIN INCORPORATED  
3 CITIES. THEY WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE MAP, THE VERSION THAT  
4 YOU WILL SEE WHEN YOU GET YOUR FINAL ORDINANCE. THAT WOULD BE  
5 THE CHANGE TO THE RIDGELINE MAP THAT STAFF WOULD RECOMMEND.

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. IN THOSE THREE INSTANCES, YOU ARE  
8 REMOVING THEM FROM DESIGNATION AS RIDGELINE PROPERTIES?

9

10 **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

11

12 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. YOU WANT TO ADDRESS MR. KNABE'S...

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** AND TO ADDRESS CHAIRMAN KNABE'S QUESTION, THE  
15 ORDINANCE DOES ADDRESS TWO SEPARATE ITEMS, THE RIDGELINES AND  
16 GRADING. IT COULD BE SPLIT INTO TWO ORDINANCES. THAT'S-- WE  
17 PUT THEM TOGETHER BECAUSE WE FELT THAT THEY WERE LINKED  
18 BECAUSE OF THE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROHIBITING DEVELOPMENT  
19 ON RIDGELINES AND THE FACT THAT THAT DEVELOPMENT THEN, IF IT  
20 GOES DOWN ONTO A HILLSIDE, THE PROTECTION GRANTED THROUGH THE  
21 GRADING PROVISIONS THAT WOULD BE AMENDED WOULD-- THEY WOULD  
22 WORK TOGETHER IN A COMPREHENSIVE FASHION SO THAT, WHEN YOU  
23 WENT DOWN ON THE-- ONTO THE HILLSIDE AND IF YOUR PROJECT  
24 NEEDED ADDITIONAL GRADING, THAT ADDITIONAL GRADING COULD BE



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1 REVIEWED UNDER THE C.U.P. PROVISION. SO, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD  
2 BE SEPARATED, WE THINK THE TWO ARE INTRINSICALLY RELATED.

3

4 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I WANT TO JUST MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS ABOUT  
5 THIS ORDINANCE AND WE TOTALLY ENDORSE THE TWO TOGETHER.  
6 THEY'RE COMPLEMENTARY AND IT'S FINE AND IT WOULDN'T CHANGE ANY  
7 OF THE CONCERNS IF THEY WERE SEPARATE, IN MY JUDGMENT, ON  
8 EITHER SIDE. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT-- I WANT TO REEMPHASIZE AT  
9 THIS POINT THAT THIS ORDINANCE DOESN'T PROHIBIT ANYTHING IN  
10 TERMS OF THE C.U.P. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT IS NOT A  
11 PROHIBITION. I CANNOT RECALL, SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE AND I CAN  
12 MAYBE RECALL ONCE IN MY 20 YEARS AS A CITY COUNCILMAN IN LOS  
13 ANGELES, WHERE WE ACTUALLY DENIED A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. WE  
14 HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED, AND I THINK THE LAW VIEWS A CONDITIONAL  
15 USE PERMIT, AS A VEHICLE TO SCRUTINIZE, AS SOMEBODY SAID  
16 EARLIER, TO SCRUTINIZE A DEVELOPMENT, TO SCRUTINIZE AN  
17 APPLICATION AND TO IMPROVE UPON IT, NOT TO-- IT'S NOT A  
18 VEHICLE TO STOP. IF WE HAD WANTED TO STOP ANYTHING OR PROHIBIT  
19 HORSE USES OR PROHIBIT THIS, THAT, OR THE OTHER THING, WE  
20 WOULD HAVE SAID IT'S PROHIBITED. WE HAVE MADE RIDGELINE  
21 DEVELOPMENT, AS FAR AS WE CAN GO, WE HAVE RESTRICTED IT, MADE  
22 IT, YOU KNOW, A VIRTUAL PROHIBITION AND WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED  
23 FOR A VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE WHO OWN PROPERTY, WHO HAVE  
24 NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES, WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO BUILD UNDER A  
25 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW PROCESS THROUGH A VARIANCE. I THINK





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1 YOU'VE HEARD A LOT OF TESTIMONY, EVEN FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WERE  
2 OPPOSING THIS ORDINANCE, THAT THEY HAVE PAID SINCERE, I  
3 BELIEVE, SINCERE LIP SERVICE AND I SAY THAT RESPECTFULLY,  
4 THESE ARE-- EVERYBODY WHO LIVES OUT HERE UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE  
5 HAVE AND WHAT THE VALUE OF IT IS. THAT'S WHY THE NATIONAL  
6 PARKS SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS WAS HERE,  
7 THAT'S WHY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE PARKS WAS HERE,  
8 THAT'S WHY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
9 CONSERVANCY WAS HERE AND EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPOKEN ON  
10 BOTH SIDES HAVE ADDRESSED THEIR LOVE FOR THIS NATURAL  
11 ENVIRONMENT. THERE'S NO PROHIBITION ON A SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE.  
12 THE ONLY ISSUE HERE IS AT WHAT THRESHOLD DO WE-- DOES THE  
13 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PROCESS KICK IN. DRIVEWAYS. I WANT TO  
14 ADDRESS DRIVEWAYS. THIS IS NOT ABOUT DRIVEWAYS. THESE  
15 DRIVEWAYS ARE ROADS. THEY'RE NOT DRIVEWAYS. THEY ARE NOT  
16 EIGHT-FOOT-WIDE DRIVEWAYS LIKE THE ONE IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE  
17 AND MOST PEOPLE'S HOUSES. THESE ARE ROADS. I WANT TO SHOW--  
18 MR. SWEENEY WAS HERE EARLIER. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S STILL HERE.  
19 THIS IS-- AND YOU HAVE-- YOU'VE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF COLOR  
20 PHOTOS FROM SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TESTIFIED. THIS IS  
21 WHAT MR. SWEENEY'S 20,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING SHOWED. I  
22 DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN SEE IT, MEMBERS. I CAN ACTUALLY PASS IT  
23 AROUND, LAURA, AND SO PEOPLE CAN GET AN IDEA. A MOUNTAIN TOP  
24 WAS SHAVED OFF. A ROADWAY. THIS BIG SCAR, THIS 45-DEGREE  
25 ANGULAR SCAR, THAT'S THE DRIVEWAY. THAT'S A SO-CALLED



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1 DRIVEWAY. THAT'S A ROAD. THAT'S A HIGHWAY. AND LOOK AT WHAT  
2 IT'S DONE THIS THIS THING AND THAT'S 20,000 CUBIC YARDS.  
3 THAT'S THE ONE HE WAS REFERRING TO WHEN I ASKED HIM, WHAT IS  
4 YOUR BIGGEST GRADING PROJECT IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS? HE  
5 SAID 20,000 CUBIC YARDS. THIS IS IT. AND THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS  
6 WE OUGHT TO EXEMPT, UP TO 20,000 WITHOUT ANY KIND OF REVIEW. I  
7 DON'T THINK THAT'S RATIONAL, IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE AND IT'S NOT  
8 CONSISTENT WITH ANY OF THE OTHER CITIES IN OUR AREA AND WITH  
9 MANY HILLSIDE JURISDICTIONS AROUND THE STATE. SO I THINK  
10 YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR, MR. ANTONOVICH IS GOING TO MAKE HIS  
11 MOTION TO EXEMPT DRIVEWAYS. THIS IS NOT EXEMPTING DRIVEWAYS.  
12 YOU'RE BUILDING 300-FOOT ROADWAYS, LONGER, HALF A MILE  
13 ROADWAYS, DEPENDING ON HOW FAR IN YOU HAVE TO CREATE THE ROAD  
14 TO GET TO THE PROPERTY WHERE YOU WANT TO DEVELOP. AND BY THE  
15 WAY, WE ARE NOT PRECLUDING THOSE KINDS OF ROADWAYS. ALL WE'RE  
16 SAYING IS THAT, BEFORE YOU GET THE PERMIT TO GRADE THAT MUCH  
17 CUBIC YARDAGE FOR THE ROADWAY, THAT YOU GO THROUGH A  
18 CONDITIONAL USE PROCESS. IT MAY BE, UPON CLOSER REFLECTION AND  
19 SCRUTINY, THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO DO IT. MAYBE WE DON'T  
20 BULLDOZE FIVE OAK TREES, MAYBE WE CAN GET AROUND THE OAK  
21 TREES, MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO TRANSPLANT AN OAK TREE, AS WAS  
22 DONE ELSEWHERE. MAYBE WE CAN JUST MOVE AROUND IT AND HAVE THE  
23 ABILITY TO DO THAT INSTEAD OF BEING FORCED INTO THE SITUATION  
24 WHICH I HAVE BEEN AND I KNOW OTHER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WHERE WE  
25 SAY, HEY, WE HAVE NO POWER, THE LAW DOESN'T ALLOW US TO



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1 BECAUSE WE AREN'T GIVEN THE DISCRETION. WE NEED TO HAVE-- THE  
2 COUNTY NEEDS TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO FINE TUNE DEVELOPMENT SO  
3 THAT WHERE YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES, ONE A MORE DESTRUCTIVE PATH  
4 AND ONE A LESS DESTRUCTIVE PATH, TO GO THE LESS DESTRUCTIVE  
5 PATH. [ APPLAUSE ] [ GAVEL ]

6

7 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** NOW, I HAVE ONE MORE THING. I SPOKE AT THE  
8 OUTSET OF 15,000-FOOT PAD REQUIREMENT AND WE HEARD FROM-- SOME  
9 OF THE PEOPLE RESPONDED TO MY REQUEST TO ADDRESS IT AND I  
10 THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR. COMMON SENSE DICTATES IT AND I THINK  
11 WE'VE HEARD FROM THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE, SOME OF THE PEOPLE  
12 WHO WERE HERE, THAT THE 15,000-FOOT DISTURBED AREA THRESHOLD  
13 IS OVERLY BURDENSOME, AND I WOULD SAY UNNECESSARY AS LONG AS  
14 YOU HAVE THE 5,000 CUBIC YARD GRADING REQUIREMENT. IT'S MY  
15 INTENT TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT ALONG THOSE LINES, AND I WANT TO  
16 ASK MR. ZOLA, OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT, IF AN ADDENDUM IS  
17 APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS THAT YOU'VE  
18 HEARD AND THE TESTIMONY YOU'VE RECEIVED TODAY AND THE COMMENTS  
19 THAT HAVE BEEN MADE HERE.

20

21 **LLOYD ZOLA:** YES, IT IS AND THE BASIC REASONS ARE THE FINDINGS  
22 THAT WE HAVE IN THE INITIAL STUDY ADDENDUM WITH THE REVISIONS  
23 THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED JUST NOW, ALONG WITH THE TESTIMONY.  
24 THERE WAS NOTHING RAISED THAT WOULD CHANGE THE CONCLUSIONS OF  
25 THAT. AND, BASICALLY, THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE NOT GOING TO



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1     RESULT, NEITHER WILL THE ORDINANCE, IN ANY SIGNIFICANT  
2     UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS EXCEPT FOR THOSE THAT WERE ACTUALLY  
3     ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL E.I.R. FOR THE NORTH AREA PLAN, AND  
4     THOSE BEING TRANSPORTATION, AIR QUALITY AND LOSS OF OPEN  
5     SPACE. THE REVISIONS TO THE ORDINANCE, AND NEITHER WILL THE  
6     ORDINANCE RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF THOSE THREE THAT  
7     ARE MORE SEVERE, SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SEVERE THAN WAS ANALYZED  
8     IN THAT ORIGINAL DRAFT, ORIGINAL FINAL E.I.R. THE INITIAL  
9     STUDY AND NOTHING I'VE HEARD TODAY WOULD RAISE ANY ISSUES THAT  
10    THERE WERE MITIGATION MEASURES THAT HAD BEEN APPLIED THAT WERE  
11    BELIEVED NOT TO BE FEASIBLE THAT NOW WE KNOW OR BELIEVE ARE  
12    FEASIBLE AND COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCING  
13    THOSE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND THE REVISIONS, AND NOTHING I'VE  
14    HEARD TODAY, WOULD CHANGE THAT CONCLUSION. THERE'S ALSO NO  
15    EVIDENCE THAT THERE'S ANY SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT MITIGATION  
16    MEASURES THAN THOSE THAT WERE ANALYZED IN THE PREVIOUS E.I.R.  
17    THAT WE'VE HEARD TODAY OR THAT WERE REVIEWED AS PART OF THE  
18    INITIAL STUDY ADDENDUM THAT COULD REDUCE THOSE INITIAL OR  
19    THOSE SUBSTANTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS. BASED ON ALL THIS, MY  
20    CONCLUSION IS THAT THE EVIDENCE IS THAT THE-- AN ADDENDUM  
21    WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. EVEN WITH THE REVISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN  
22    DISCUSSED, THE FINDINGS THAT I JUST IDENTIFIED WOULD NOT BE  
23    CHANGED BY THE PROPOSED REVISIONS BECAUSE THE DEVELOPMENT THAT  
24    WOULD OCCUR WOULD STILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
25    THE NORTH AREA PLAN, THE MITIGATION MEASURES CONTAINED IN THE



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1 FINAL E.I.R. SO, THEREFORE, THE ADDENDUM, WITH THE FOLLOWING  
2 REVISIONS, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. IF IT IS THE BOARD'S INTENT  
3 TO REMOVE THAT 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT CRITERIA FOR REQUIRING  
4 CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS, THAT SHOULD BE STRICKEN, ALL  
5 REFERENCES TO THAT SHOULD BE STRICKEN FROM SECTION 2.3.1. IN  
6 THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION, THAT SAME SECTION, 2.3.1, WE SHOULD  
7 CLARIFY THAT THE RIDGELINE MAP WILL BE ADOPTED AS PART OF THE  
8 ORDINANCE AND THAT THE CRITERIA ARE ON THAT MAP THAT WERE USED  
9 TO DEFINE WHAT IS A SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE. THIRD, IN TERMS OF  
10 REVISIONS TO SECTION 2.3.1, WE SHOULD CLARIFY THE  
11 APPLICABILITY LANGUAGE AS DISCUSSED BY COUNTY COUNSEL AND THAT  
12 THE APPLICABILITY LANGUAGE WOULD CLEARLY EXEMPT PROJECT  
13 APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE EITHER BEEN DEEMED COMPLETE OR  
14 APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY UNDERGONE A PUBLIC HEARING AS  
15 WELL AS EXEMPT ALL PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DEVELOPMENT  
16 APPLICATIONS WHERE THE ANTICIPATED GRADING WAS CLEARLY  
17 DEPICTED. THE FINAL REVISION TO THE INITIAL STUDY ADDENDUM  
18 SHOULD OCCUR IN SECTION 3, WHICH WOULD BE ALL REFERENCES TO  
19 THE 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT CRITERIA REQUIRING CONDITIONAL USE  
20 PERMITS SHOULD BE STRICKEN FROM THAT SECTION OF THE INITIAL  
21 STUDY ADDENDUM. WITH THAT, I THINK THAT INITIAL STUDY ADDENDUM  
22 WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.

23

24 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY.

25



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1    **SUP. BURKE:** I HAVE JUST A COUPLE QUESTIONS.

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YES. ARE YOU THROUGH, ZEV?

4

5    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I WANT TO READ THE MOTION. IS THIS AN  
6    APPROPRIATE TIME TO DO THAT?

7

8    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I THINK WE ALL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS BUT GO  
9    AHEAD.

10

11    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY TO ABBREVIATE IT. THE  
12    SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, AS YOU HAVE HEARD TODAY, ARE ONE OF  
13    THE MOUNTAIN NATION'S MOST PRECIOUS COASTAL MOUNTAIN RANGES  
14    AND ONE OF L.A. COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL JEWELS. THERE IS NO  
15    PLACE IN AMERICA WHERE SUCH A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE  
16    EXISTS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO A METROPOLITAN AREA OF 10 TO 15  
17    MILLION PEOPLE. IN OCTOBER OF 2000, THIS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
18    UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE NORTH AREA PLAN GOVERNING MUCH OF THE  
19    SANTA MONICAS AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE  
20    ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES IN THIS PART OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY. IT  
21    HAS BEEN THE COUNTY'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE, AS ARTICULATED IN THE  
22    NORTH AREA PLAN, TO LET THE LAND DICTATE THE TYPE AND  
23    INTENSITY OF USE AS PROPERTIES ARE DEVELOPED IN THE AREA. IN  
24    THE PAST, THIS AREA HAS WITNESSED DEVELOPMENT THAT IS  
25    DRASTICALLY AND ADVERSELY ALTERED THE UNIQUE, PRECIOUS AND





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1 VALUABLE TERRAIN THAT MADE UP THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE AND ITS  
2 VALLEYS AND STREAMS. THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVED THE  
3 NORTH AREA PLAN FOR, AMONG OTHER REASONS, TO ESTABLISH  
4 POLICIES AIMED AT MINIMIZING THE PERMANENT SCARRING OF  
5 RIDGELINES, SLOPES AND VALLEYS CAUSED BY DESTRUCTIVE AND  
6 UNCHECKED GRADING, PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES  
7 IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA AND ENHANCING FIRE  
8 SAFETY IN THE REGION. THE GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE  
9 ORDINANCE THAT IS BEFORE THIS BOARD TODAY IMPLEMENTS THESE  
10 POLICIES AND ENSURES THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW  
11 WHICH MANDATES THAT LOCAL ZONING ORDINANCES CONFORM TO LOCAL,  
12 IN THIS CASE, THE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN. THIS ORDINANCE IS THE  
13 PRODUCT OF LENGTHY PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS IN WHICH HUNDREDS  
14 OF CITIZENS PROVIDED INPUT TO COUNTY STAFF AND DECISION-  
15 MAKERS. THE COUNTY'S REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED  
16 APPROVAL OF THIS ORDINANCE ON JUNE THE 16TH OF THIS YEAR AND  
17 FORWARDED IT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR ITS  
18 CONSIDERATION. THE ORDINANCE IS ALSO THE PRODUCT OF  
19 EXCEPTIONALLY THOROUGH AND PROFESSIONAL WORK BY COUNTY  
20 REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF, AS WELL AS THE STAFF OF MY  
21 OFFICE. AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THEM WHO'VE BEEN A PART OF  
22 THIS. I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL WORK. I'VE  
23 LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE COMMENTS MADE TODAY AND PREVIOUSLY  
24 AND I HAVE REVIEWED THE MANY LETTERS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS  
25 THAT I HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE LAST MANY MONTHS ON THIS MATTER.



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1 VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE, CONCERN, OR CRITICISM THAT HAS BEEN  
2 RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN RESPONDED TO BY STAFF  
3 AND ONE OF THE MANNERS IN WHICH IT WAS RESPONDED TO IS IN THIS  
4 DOCUMENT, WHICH I HOPE WE PRINT MANY OF, WHICH IS CALLED  
5 "RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS" THAT YOU'VE CIRCULATED TO  
6 US TODAY. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE MADE THEM AVAILABLE-- IF YOU  
7 HAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE AVAILABLE BUT IT CERTAINLY IS A VERY GOOD  
8 PRODUCT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE REQUIREMENT  
9 FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR GRADING PROJECTS RESULTING IN  
10 A DISTURBED AREA LARGER THAN 15,000 SQUARE FEET, ESPECIALLY  
11 SINCE THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ALREADY ESTABLISHES A THRESHOLD  
12 FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AT 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING.  
13 THIS PROVISION, IN MY JUDGMENT, IS UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE.  
14 ONE OF THE COUNTY'S PRIMARY GOALS IN THIS ORDINANCE IS TO  
15 MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF GRADING THAT TAKES PLACE WITHOUT  
16 MEANINGFUL COUNTY REVIEW. SUCH PROTECTION IS PROVIDED IN THE  
17 ORDINANCE WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR  
18 GRADING PROJECTS LARGER THAN 5,000 YARDS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR  
19 THE 15,000 SQUARE FOOT DISTURBED AREA THRESHOLD THAT WAS  
20 APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION. REMOVAL OF THIS  
21 REQUIREMENT SHOULD HELP ALLEVIATE CONCERNS THAT THIS ORDINANCE  
22 UNDULY CONSTRAINS HORSE KEEPING USES IN THE NORTH AREA AND  
23 OTHER CONCERNS THAT WE'VE HEARD TODAY. MOREOVER, THIS CHANGE  
24 WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE PROPERTY OWNERS TO DEVELOP THEIR  
25 PROPERTIES IN THE FLATTER AREAS OF THEIR PROPERTIES, RESULTING



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1 IN THE NEED FOR LESS GRADING IN THE FIRST PLACE. I THEREFORE  
2 MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CLOSE, NUMBER ONE, CLOSE  
3 THE PUBLIC HEARING. TWO, CONSIDER THE CERTIFIED FINAL  
4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, S.C.H. NUMBER 99011068 FOR THE  
5 VENTURA FREEWAY CORRIDOR AREA-WIDE PLAN AND REVISE THE  
6 ADDENDUM THERETO. THREE, FIND THAT THE REVISED ADDENDUM TO THE  
7 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT WAS PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE  
8 WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, THE C.E.Q.A.  
9 GUIDELINES, SECTION 15.1.84, ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT REPORTING  
10 PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. FOUR,  
11 ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS. FIVE, DIRECT  
12 THE STAFF TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS: (A) REMOVE THE  
13 REQUIREMENT FROM THE ORDINANCE THAT GRADING PROJECTS RESULTING  
14 IN A DISTURBED AREA LARGER THAN 15,000 SQUARE FEET NEED A  
15 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. (B) CLARIFY THAT THE SIGNIFICANT  
16 RIDGELINE MAP WILL BE ADOPTED AS PART OF THE ORDINANCE AND  
17 INCLUDE ON SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE MAP THE CRITERIA FOR  
18 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE DESIGNATION. (C) CLARIFY THE  
19 "APPLICABILITY" LANGUAGE OF THE ORDINANCE TO CLEARLY EXEMPT  
20 PROJECT APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DEEMED COMPLETE,  
21 APPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY UNDERGONE A PUBLIC HEARING AND  
22 PREVIOUSLY APPROVED APPLICATIONS WHERE THE ANTICIPATED GRADING  
23 WAS CLEARLY DEPICTED. SIX, DETERMINE THAT THE ADOPTION OF  
24 AMENDMENTS TO COUNTY CODE TITLE 22 IS COMPATIBLE WITH AND  
25 SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOALS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL



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1 PLAN. SEVEN, APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL  
2 PLANNING COMMISSION AND ADOPT THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH  
3 AREA GRADING AND SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINE ORDINANCE AND PROPOSED  
4 SIGNIFICANT RIDGELINES MAP AND ADOPT THE AMENDMENTS AS  
5 RECOMMENDED BY STAFF, COUNTY COUNSEL, AND THIS MOTION. AND,  
6 FINALLY, NUMBER 8, CONSTRUCT COUNTY COUNSEL TO PREPARE FINAL A  
7 FINAL ORDINANCE WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AMEND TITLE 22  
8 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE FOR THIS BOARD'S CONSIDERATION  
9 AT THE CONTINUED PUBLIC-- THERE IS NO CONTINUED PUBLIC  
10 HEARING.

11

12 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** IF YOUR BOARD ADOPTS THIS MOTION, IT  
13 WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO KEEP THE PUBLIC HEARING OPEN.

14

15 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. SO ITEM 8 CAN BE STRICKEN IN ITS  
16 ENTIRETY?

17

18 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** NO, WHAT YOU SHOULD STRIKE IS AT THE  
19 CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING.

20

21 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** OKAY. SO AFTER THE WORD "CONSIDERATION", PUT  
22 A PERIOD AND STRIKE AT THE CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING SINCE  
23 WE'RE PROPOSING TO CLOSE IT.

24

25 **THANK YOU. THAT'S MY MOTION.**



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1

2 >>**SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. JUST A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS. YVONNE,  
3 YOU HAD A QUESTION FIRST AND THEN AND I HAVE A COUPLE MYSELF.

4

5 **SUP. BURKE:** YES, I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS. A NUMBER OF  
6 PEOPLE RAISED THE ISSUE THAT THEY FELT THAT THERE WERE  
7 PROTECTIONS IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN OR A GRANDFATHERING IN THE  
8 NORTH AREA PLAN THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THIS AND THAT THOSE  
9 RIGHTS MIGHT BE ERODED. COULD YOU RESPOND TO THAT?

10

11 **RON HOFFMAN, REGIONAL PLANNING:** YES, SUPERVISOR. THE  
12 GRANDFATHER PROVISIONS IN THE NORTH AREA PLAN I THINK HAVE  
13 BEEN DISCUSSED AND COUNTY COUNSEL MAY WANT TO ELABORATE, DEALT  
14 WITH-- SPECIFICALLY WITH PROJECTS THAT WERE IN PROCESS DURING  
15 THE TIME OF THE HEARINGS FOR THE NORTH AREA PLAN TO BE  
16 ADOPTED. ALSO, THE PROVISIONS RELATE-- THE GRANDFATHER  
17 PROVISIONS RELATE SPECIFICALLY TO THE LOT SIZE BECAUSE, AS YOU  
18 MAY RECOLLECT, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE DOWN-ZONING OF THE  
19 PROPERTIES IN THAT MANY PROPERTIES WERE IN A ONE-ACRE CATEGORY  
20 PREVIOUSLY AND THEN WERE PLACED INTO A ONE-UNIT PER 20-ACRE  
21 CATEGORY. THE DENSITIES WERE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. WHAT THAT  
22 LANGUAGE WAS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO DO WAS TO ASSURE PEOPLE  
23 THAT, BECAUSE OF THEIR LOT SIZE, THEY WOULD NOT BE PROHIBITED  
24 FROM A USE OF THEIR PROPERTY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CURRENT  
25 PROVISIONS OF THE LAW AND THE-- AS WE'VE STATED AND COUNTY



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1 COUNSEL HAS ELABORATED ON, THAT IT WAS NEVER INTENDED, NOR  
2 WOULD ANYONE REALISTICALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO  
3 ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ORDINANCES NECESSARY TO PUT THE  
4 PROVISIONS, THE POLICIES OF THE PLAN INTO EFFECT. SO, AS IT  
5 RELATES TO THE GRANDFATHERING, WE THINK IT'S SPECIFICALLY  
6 RELATED TO THE LOT SIZE OF THE PROPERTY.

7

8 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IS THE LANGUAGE SPECIFIC IN THE NEW  
9 ORDINANCE AS IT RELATES TO GRANDFATHERING? I MEAN, AS AN  
10 EXAMPLE, WHAT ABOUT ACCESS? I MEAN, WHETHER THEY CALL THEM  
11 ROADS, DRIVEWAYS. I MEAN, HOW DOES THAT IMPACT UNDER THE  
12 GRANDFATHERING PORTION OF THIS, THE ACCESS TO A POTENTIAL HOME  
13 SITE OR TO A HOME SITE?

14

15 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED  
16 ORDINANCE, WE BELIEVE THE APPLICABILITY LANGUAGE, ASSUMING THE  
17 BOARD ADOPTS THE MODIFICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED, WILL  
18 BE CLEAR. IN THE ORDINANCE NOW, ACCESS DRIVEWAYS, EXISTING  
19 DEVELOPMENT, EXISTING GRADED AREAS ARE EXEMPT. SO THAT THE  
20 VOLUMES, IN THIS CASE, IF IT'S NOW LIMITED TO THE 5,000 CUBIC  
21 YARD, WOULD ONLY APPLY ASSUMING THAT THE PREVIOUS GRADING WAS  
22 DONE LAWFULLY, THE NEW LIMITATION ONLY APPLIED TO ADDITIONAL  
23 GRADING ABOVE AND BEYOND WHATEVER IS ON THE SITE, WHETHER IT  
24 BE FOR A DRIVEWAY, A HOME, A CORRAL, OR WHATEVER.

25





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1   **SUP. BURKE:** NOW, LET ME ASK ONE ADDITIONAL QUESTION. THE AREA  
2   THAT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO TURN AROUND,  
3   AND I'M NOT REFERRING TO THE DRIVEWAY OR ROAD, I'M REFERRING  
4   TO THOSE AREAS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED BY FIRE REGULATION IN  
5   ORDER FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NOT JUST TO GET THERE BUT TO  
6   ALSO HAVE A TURNAROUND AREA. NOW, IS THAT TAKEN CARE OF BY THE  
7   15,000-- ELIMINATION OF THE 15,000 SQUARE FEET? OR ARE THERE  
8   SITUATIONS WHERE THE GRADING WOULD HAVE TO BE IN EXCESS OF THE  
9   5,000 IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT?

10

11   **RON HOFFMAN:** THE TURNAROUND SPECIFIED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
12   WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY A 1,200-SQUARE-FOOT AREA IN ORDER TO  
13   HAVE THE HAMMERHEAD TURNAROUND, AS SPECIFIED BY THE FIRE  
14   DEPARTMENT. IT IS VERY UNLIKELY, AND I THINK THE  
15   REPRESENTATIVE FROM PUBLIC WORKS TESTIFIED, THAT THAT WOULD--  
16   THAT SMALL AREA WOULD PUT YOU OVER THE 5,000 CUBIC YARDS.

17

18   **SUP. BURKE:** WELL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IT'S REALLY 2,500 IN  
19   TERMS OF THE ACTUAL GRADING BECAUSE YOU COUNT THE FILL.

20

21   **RON HOFFMAN:** RIGHT.

22

23   **SUP. BURKE:** SO THAT THE 1,200, AS LONG AS IT WASN'T 1,200 THAT  
24   REQUIRED IT ACTUALLY GRADING, I MEAN, IF YOU GET INTO WHERE  
25   YOU HAVE TO HAVE GRADING FOR THAT, YOU KNOW, WHAT'S BOTHERING



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1 ME IS IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME CONSIDERATION  
2 OF THOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS, EVEN IF IT GETS OVER TO  
3 REQUIRING THE 1,200 GRADING. [ APPLAUSE ]

4

5 **SUP. BURKE:** THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S BOTHERING ME.

6

7 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AND THAT'S A QUESTION I HAD IS WHETHER  
8 THERE'S AN EXCEPTION POSSIBILITY. I MEAN, ON THE ONE HAND, I  
9 UNDERSTAND WHERE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS TESTIFYING HERE  
10 TODAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU HAD PEOPLE TESTIFY THAT THE FIRE  
11 DEPARTMENT REQUIRED CERTAIN ACCESS POINTS. AND, YOU KNOW, I  
12 DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S YOU OR PUBLIC WORKS, SOMEBODY SHOULD  
13 ADDRESS WHETHER IT'S 1,200. I SEE PEOPLE OUT THERE WAVING  
14 THEIR HANDS AT ME. 3,000. I MEAN, WHATEVER IT MAY BE, CAN WE  
15 HAVE, YOU KNOW, INSTEAD OF APPROXIMATING WHAT THAT SPECIFIC  
16 REQUIREMENT-- I MEAN THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE AS IT RELATES TO THE  
17 5,000 CUBIC YARDS.

18

19 **SUP. BURKE:** AND AS IT RELATES TO THE 2,500. YOU SEE WHAT I  
20 MEAN? IS THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND-- I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE  
21 WHOLE ISSUE OF IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE-- IF YOU'RE GOING TO  
22 GRADE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT IT SOMEWHERE. NOW,  
23 SOMETIMES YOU'LL TAKE IT AND TAKE IT SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND SO,  
24 IN THAT CASE, YOU'D BE ALLOWED THE 5,000, I ASSUME.

25



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1   **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

2

3   **SUP. BURKE:** BUT IF YOU TAKE THAT 2,500 AND YOU USE IT TO  
4   CREATE A PAD, THEN, OF COURSE, YOU JUST HAVE THE 2,500 THAT  
5   YOU CAN ACTUALLY DO IN GRADING. SO, AT THAT POINT, I THEN ASK  
6   THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE'RE PROTECTING FIRE FROM FIRE  
7   AND IF WE ARE PROVIDING THE SUFFICIENT AREA FOR THE FIRE  
8   DEPARTMENT TO BE ABLE TO TURN AROUND THEIR TRUCK? AND, TO ME,  
9   IS SEEMS AS THOUGH IT WOULD NOT BE A DYING EVENT IF YOU HAD--  
10   IF IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN AREA FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO  
11   TURN AROUND. AND I MEAN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO TURN AROUND AND  
12   I DON'T MEAN FOR YOUR FRIENDS TO PARK. IF THAT WAS NECESSARY,  
13   THEN IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE WOULD MAKE SOME PROVISION FOR  
14   THAT. NOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THAT, WHETHER YOU  
15   ANTICIPATED THAT WOULD BE IN A C.U.P. OR HOW YOU ANTICIPATED  
16   DOING THAT BUT I KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO PRESERVE THE FIRE-- OR  
17   YOU DON'T WANT FIRE...

18

19   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** THE PROBLEM IS THAT MOST OF THESE WHERE YOU--  
20   - AND CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG-- LET ME WAIT UNTIL MARK IS-- I  
21   THINK ALL OF THE STAFF NEED TO HEAR THIS TO MAKE SURE I'M NOT  
22   IN ERROR. WHENEVER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A TURNAROUND, YOU'RE  
23   TALKING ABOUT A TURNAROUND IN AN AREA THAT IS-- WHICH HAS BEEN  
24   PRECEDED BY A LONG ROAD. ISN'T THAT CORRECT? IT'S NOT-- IF YOU  
25   HAVE A ROAD, A HOUSE IS NEAR THE MAIN ROAD, YOU DON'T NEED A



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1   TURNAROUND. BUT IF YOU HAVE A LONG-- A QUARTER OF A MILE ROAD  
2   THAT LEADS UP TO THE TOP OR TO THE VALLEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS,  
3   THAT'S WHEN YOU NEED THE TURNAROUND, THAT'S WHERE THE FIRE  
4   DEPARTMENT REQUIRES IT.

5

6   **SUP. BURKE:** WELL, YOU CAN'T BACK OUT EVEN IF IT'S...

7

8   **RON HOFFMAN:** THAT'S CORRECT.

9

10   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** UNDERSTOOD.

11

12   **SUP. BURKE:** THEY CAN'T BACK OUT.

13

14   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YOU STILL NEED ACCESS FOR THE FIRE  
15   DEPARTMENT, WHETHER IT'S SHORT OR LONG.

16

17   **SUP. BURKE:** IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HERE? IF THE FIRE  
18   DEPARTMENT IS HERE, HOW FAR CAN THEY BACK OUT OF A DRIVEWAY? I  
19   MEAN, I KNOW I'VE HAD DRIVEWAYS THAT WERE NOT A QUARTER OF A  
20   MILE BUT I DON'T THINK THEY COULD BACK OUT OF IT BECAUSE IT  
21   CURVED.

22

23   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** {OFF-MIKE) OR 300 FEET, WHATEVER.

24



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1    **SUP. BURKE:** WELL, WHAT AREA COULD THEY BACK OUT OF AND WHAT  
2    AREA WILL THEY HAVE TO HAVE? THEY HAVE TO HAVE A TURNAROUND.  
3    AT WHAT POINT DO YOU NEED A TURNAROUND?

4

5    **SPEAKER:** ONCE IT EXTENDS BEYOND 150 FEET, THEN WE NEED A  
6    TURNAROUND.

7

8    **SUP. BURKE:** YOU NEED A TURNAROUND?

9

10   **SPEAKER:** YES. [ APPLAUSE ]

11

12   **SUP. BURKE:** WELL, MY POSITION WOULD BE THAT THERE HAS TO BE  
13   PROVISION FOR A TURNAROUND, PROVISION FOR A TURNAROUND IN  
14   TERMS OF THE 2,500 OR 5,000,

15

16   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AN EXEMPTION OF THE TURNAROUND.

17

18   **SUP. BURKE:** RIGHT. WHATEVER AREA-- HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED FOR A  
19   TURNAROUND?

20

21   **SPEAKER:** DEPENDS ON IF IT'S A HAMMERHEAD OR IT'S A RADIUS. IF  
22   IT'S A RADIUS, IT'S 40 FEET AND THE HAMMERHEAD'S...

23

24   **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** 40 FEET WHAT? RADIUS?

25



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1 **SPEAKER:** 40-FOOT RADIUS AND THEN THE HAMMERHEAD IS 40 FOOT  
2 LONG.

3

4 **SUP. BURKE:** SO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW MANY SQUARE FEET DO  
5 YOU NEED?

6

7 **RON HOFFMAN:** I THINK-- WE'VE DONE SOME CALCULATIONS AND, BASED  
8 ON OUR CALCULATIONS, THE AMOUNT OF SQUARE-- THE AMOUNT OF  
9 CUBIC YARDS IN A TYPICAL TURNAROUND WOULD BE-- WITH A SIX-FOOT  
10 CUT AND SIX-FOOT FILL, WOULD BE 266 CUBIC YARDS AND IF WE...

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SIX-FOOT WHAT?

13

14 **RON HOFFMAN:** IF YOU HAD A SLOPING TERRAIN AND YOU HAD TO CUT  
15 BACK INTO THAT TERRAIN...

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OH, OKAY.

18

19 **RON HOFFMAN:** ...A SIX-FOOT AMOUNT OF CUT AND THEN APPLIED THAT  
20 FILL TO CREATE THE PAD AREA TO TURN AROUND, THAT WOULD BE A  
21 TOTAL OF 512 CUBIC YARDS. AND THAT WOULD BE 512 LOOKED AT FROM  
22 THE 5,000 CUBIC YARD TOTAL. SO THAT WOULD BE ROUGHLY 10%.

23

24 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS A POTENTIAL  
25 EXEMPTION FOR THAT 512 SO IT WOULDN'T COUNT AGAINST THE 5,000.





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1

2 **SUP. BURKE:** YEAH, THAT'S ALL I'M TALKING ABOUT IS AN EXEMPTION  
3 FOR THAT 512 OR 500...

4

5 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** BUT NOT FOR THE ROADWAY THAT LEADS UP TO THE  
6 TURNAROUND?

7

8 **SUP. BURKE:** NO, JUST THE TURNAROUND.

9

10 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. WE'LL CONSIDER IT AS PART OF  
11 THE...

12

13 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

14

15 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I THOUGHT-- DO YOU HAVE OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO  
16 BE HEARD? I MEAN, ON THE BOARD OR...

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, I MEAN, I HAD-- I GUESS-- JUST A  
19 CLARIFICATION, WHEN-- IN SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY'S MOTION, AS  
20 IT RELATES TO THE 15,000-SQUARE-FOOT, YOU KNOW, MOVEMENT BEING  
21 ELIMINATED, OKAY, AS A THRESHOLD OF ANY SORT, WHAT DOES THAT  
22 REALLY MEAN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN IN TERMS OF ADDRESSING THE  
23 ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED HERE TODAY?

24



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1   **RON HOFFMAN:** I THINK IF WE LOOK AT THE STATISTICS IN TERMS OF  
2   THE GRADING PERMITS, THE GRADING PERMITS THAT WE'VE REVIEWED  
3   THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THIS YEAR, IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS  
4   OF THIS YEAR, IF WE WERE TO APPLY THE 15,000 SQUARE FEET, 20  
5   OF THE 26 PERMITS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A CONDITIONAL USE  
6   PERMIT. 20 OF 26. BY ELIMINATING THAT AND JUST LOOKING AT THE  
7   5,000 AND I'M LOOKING AT-- I'M LOOKING AT THE BUILDING AND  
8   SAFETY FIGURES AND DOUBLING THEM BECAUSE THEY ONLY COUNT THE  
9   DIRT ONCE. IF WE LOOK AT WHAT-- WHAT WOULD BE EXEMPTED IN THAT  
10   SITUATION, JUST LOOKING AT THE 5,000, 11 OF 23, OR 48% WOULD  
11   BE EXEMPT RATHER THAN THE OTHER AMOUNT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN,  
12   LIKE, ONLY 14% WOULD HAVE BEEN EXEMPT. THIS WOULD EXEMPT  
13   APPROXIMATELY-- APPROXIMATELY HALF BUT 48% OF THE PERMITS  
14   FILED THIS YEAR, WHERE WE HAVE THE COMPLETE DATA ON THE SQUARE  
15   FOOTAGE IMPACTED AND THE CUBIC YARDS.

16

17   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** THAT INCLUDES DRIVEWAYS, EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

18

19   **SPEAKER:** THAT'S-- THAT'S EVERYTHING THAT WAS APPLIED FOR IN  
20   THAT-- IN THOSE GRADING PERMITS.

21

22   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO, I MEAN...

23

24   **SUP. BURKE:** HALF OF THEM WOULD HAVE C.U.P.S.

25



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1    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. CHAIRMAN?

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY, YES?

4

5    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** BACK TO MS. BURKE'S SUGGESTION, IF I CAN.

6    I'M PREPARED TO MAKE A SUGGESTION.

7

8    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SURE.

9

10    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** MR. ZOLA, IF MS. BURKE'S SUGGESTION, AS I  
11    UNDERSTAND IT, IS TO EXEMPT FROM THE GRADING CALCULATION FOR  
12    THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING THE THRESHOLD, ANY FIRE  
13    DEPARTMENT REQUIRED TURNAROUND, AND ONLY THAT PORTION THAT IS  
14    THE TURNAROUND, NOT THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO IT, THAT, IF WE SAW  
15    TO EXEMPT THAT IN THIS ORDINANCE TODAY OR DIRECTED THE STAFF  
16    TO DO THAT, GIVE ME YOUR EXPERT RESPONSE TO THAT.

17

18    **LLOYD ZOLA:** THAT WOULD NOT CHANGE THE CONCLUSION I HAD BEFORE  
19    WHEN YOU ASKED ABOUT THE REVISIONS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY  
20    PROPOSED. THE ONLY THING THAT WE SHOULD DO IF YOU WANT TO MAKE  
21    THAT EXCEPTION IS, IN SECTION 2.3.1, THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION,  
22    DESCRIBE THAT EXEMPTION IN THAT SECTION.

23

24    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AND THAT COULD BE DONE WHEN IT IS BROUGHT  
25    BACK TO THE BOARD IN FINAL FORM, COULD IT NOT?



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1

2 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** SUPERVISOR, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT. WE  
3 WOULD ASK THAT THAT BE DEEMED DONE TODAY SO THAT THE ADDENDUM  
4 WOULD BE REVISED, INCLUDING THE REVISIONS THAT HAVE JUST BEEN  
5 ORALLY STATED BY MR. ZOLA. YOU WOULD NEED TO ACT ON THE  
6 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT BEFORE YOU INDICATE YOUR INTENT TO  
7 APPROVE THE ORDINANCE.

8

9 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ALL RIGHT. I WILL INCORPORATE THAT BY WAY OF  
10 REFERENCE INTO THE MOTION THAT I MADE.

11

12 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO THAT LANGUAGE WILL COME BACK BEFORE WE  
13 VOTE ON IT? IS THAT CORRECT?

14

15 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** FOR PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
16 DOCUMENT, WE ARE-- WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING TO DO IS TO HAVE THE  
17 ADDENDUM, THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION REVISED TODAY AND THAT YOUR  
18 BOARD ACTING ON IT AS REVISED TO ADDRESS THOSE CHANGES. THE  
19 ACTUAL ORDINANCE WOULD HAVE TO COME BACK FOR ADOPTION AT A  
20 SUBSEQUENT DATE AND WOULD APPEAR UNDER YOUR ORDINANCES FOR  
21 ADOPTION ITEM ON YOUR WEEKLY AGENDA.

22

23 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO WE'RE NOT AGREEING TO ANYTHING, FINAL  
24 LANGUAGE CHANGES, UNTIL WE SEE THE ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION, IS  
25 THAT CORRECT?



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1

2 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** IF I UNDERSTAND SUPERVISOR  
3 YAROSLAVSKY'S MOTION, YOU WOULD BE INDICATING AN INTENT TO  
4 APPROVE THE ORDINANCE WITH THOSE CHANGES AND WHAT WOULD BE  
5 COMING BACK IS THE FINAL ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAKING  
6 SURE THAT IT ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTS THE INTENDED MOTION.

7

8 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. WE'RE NOT  
9 IN A POSITION TODAY TO APPROVE A FINAL ORDINANCE, IS THAT  
10 CORRECT?

11

12 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** THAT'S CORRECT. WE DON'T HAVE A FINAL  
13 ORDINANCE.

14

15 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO WE'RE NOT APPROVING A FINAL ORDINANCE  
16 TODAY.

17

18 **SUP. MOLINA:** BUT YOU ARE MOVING IT?

19

20 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** YES. AND I MOVE THAT WE CLOSE THE PUBLIC  
21 HEARING.

22

23 **SUP. BURKE:** AND WE WON'T HAVE ANOTHER HEARING, RIGHT?

24

25 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** WE MOVE THAT WE CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.



**The Meeting Transcript of  
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1

2 **SUP. BURKE:** WE CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING?

3

4 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** YEAH, IT'S PART OF THE MOTION AND I WOULD--  
5 WELL, I WOULD SHOOT FOR FOUR WEEKS, IF YOU CAN GET IT BACK IN  
6 FOUR WEEKS.

7

8 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTINUE IT TO A  
9 DATE CERTAIN. WE WOULD PUT IT BACK ON YOUR REGULAR AGENDA.

10

11 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** FINE. I WITHDRAW THAT.

12

13 **RICHARD WEISS, COUNSEL:** WE WILL DO IT AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN GET  
14 IT DONE.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, YOU HAD SOME  
17 QUESTIONS.

18

19 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** YEAH, FIRST OF ALL, THE-- YOU KNOW, WHEN THE  
20 BOARD, AGAIN, TO REPEAT FIRST ADOPTED THE NORTH AREA PLAN FOUR  
21 YEARS AGO, THE COMMENTS MADE, THE COMMITMENTS MADE INDICATED  
22 THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON THE PROPERTY  
23 OWNERS. THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE BEFORE THE BOARD TODAY AGAIN IS  
24 CONTRADICTORY BECAUSE WE ARE GOING OPPOSITE THOSE COMMITMENTS  
25 THAT WE MADE AND AS THE PUBLIC RECORD INDICATED. MANY PROPERTY





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1 OWNERS, AT THAT TIME, ACCEPTED THE BOARD ADOPTIONS OF THAT  
2 COMPROMISED AREA PLAN. TODAY, THEY FEEL BETRAYED THAT THE  
3 COUNTY NOW IS ABANDONING THAT COMPROMISE THAT THEY ALL AGREED  
4 TO. AND THERE'S VERY LITTLE IN THE PUBLIC RECORD IDENTIFYING A  
5 PROBLEM SO SEVERE THAT IT WOULD MERIT THE IMPOSITION OF A  
6 FILING FEE, SEVERAL MONTHS OF A PROCESS, SCRUTINY FROM EVERY  
7 NEIGHBOR AND A PUBLIC HEARING MERELY TO CONSTRUCT ONE SINGLE  
8 DWELLING ON A LEGAL LOT. EVEN WORSE, THE PROCESS REQUIREMENTS  
9 OF THE ORDINANCE WOULD APPLY TO EXISTING RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO  
10 CONSTRUCT A MODEST EXPANSION, SUCH AS A SWIMMING POOL OR  
11 FACILITIES FOR HORSE KEEPING. IT'S NOT ALL THAT LONG AGO THAT  
12 THE BOARD ADOPTED, AGAIN, THE MOTION THAT I HAD BROUGHT IN  
13 DIRECTING STAFF TO TAKE MEASURES TO FACILITATE HORSE KEEPING  
14 COUNTYWIDE AND THE ORDINANCE TAKES THE COUNTY IN THE OPPOSITE  
15 DIRECTION WHICH WERE BEING DISCUSSED TODAY. HORSE KEEPING AND  
16 EQUESTRIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE UNDER SEVERE SIEGE FROM  
17 NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS, SETBACK RESTRICTIONS AND WATER QUALITY  
18 REGULATORS. IN SOME INSTANCES, THERE IS SIMPLY A HOSTILITY  
19 TOWARD EQUESTRIANS OR, WORSE, NOT IN MY BACKYARD OR AN ENVY  
20 MENTALITY THAT DOESN'T WANT TO SEE EQUESTRIANS ANYWHERE NEAR  
21 EXISTING RESIDENCES. WITH SOME NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, ACTON, ALGA  
22 DOLCE, THE NORTH SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AND THE FOOTHILLS OF THE  
23 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, THERE ARE SIMPLY FEWER AND FEWER  
24 NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE ACCOMMODATING TO EQUESTRIANS. ADDING  
25 ONE MORE HURDLE, A C.U.P. REQUIREMENT COULD, IF USED



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1 IMPROPERLY, BECOME AN ESSENCE OF A BAN MORE THAN A  
2 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW AND THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE NORTH AREA  
3 PLAN AS ONE OF THE FEW NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE ACCEPTING TO  
4 EQUESTRIANS. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE IN THE PUBLIC RECORD TO  
5 SUGGEST THAT THE EXISTING THRESHOLD HAS LED TO RAMPANT  
6 DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH AREA OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, OR  
7 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, STAFF IS RECOMMENDING A  
8 20-FOLD REDUCTION IN THE THRESHOLD REQUIRING A C.U.P. ON TOP  
9 OF THIS VERY LOW THRESHOLD, ANY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY COUNTS  
10 TOWARD THE THRESHOLD, EVEN THINGS THAT THE COUNTY IMPOSES.  
11 DESPITE SOME ASSERTIONS BY STAFF, IT'S CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT  
12 NEARLY ALL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE FORCED TO ENDURE A  
13 DISCRETIONARY REVIEW. IT'S IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT  
14 THOSE GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS THAT CURRENTLY CONSTRAIN  
15 DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH AREA INCLUDE THE COUNTY HAS A GENERAL  
16 PLAN, A NORTH AREA PLAN THAT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRICTS ANY NEW  
17 DEVELOPMENT IN THAT AREA. THAT'S ALREADY IN PLACE. THE COUNTY  
18 ALREADY HAS A SERIES OF ZONING RESTRICTIONS THAT SEVERELY  
19 LIMIT WHAT USES CAN BE BUILT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE  
20 NORTH AREA PLAN. THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE ALREADY REDUCED  
21 THE BUILDABLE AREAS OF THE EAST LOTS BY IMPOSING HEIGHT LIMITS  
22 AS WELL AS REQUIRING FRONT, SIDE AND REAR YARD SETBACK AREAS.  
23 THE COUNTY'S FIRE AND BUILDING CODES ALREADY MANDATE FIRE  
24 DEPARTMENT ACCESS AND TURNAROUND AREAS, BRUSH CLEARANCE AREAS  
25 AND SEPARATIONS BETWEEN BUILDINGS. AND THE COUNTY'S HEALTH



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1 CODE ALREADY MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP MANY OF THESE  
2 PROPERTIES DUE TO THE SOIL CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR SETBACKS OR  
3 A LACK OF AVAILABLE LAND FOR LEACH FIELDS. THE COUNTY ALREADY  
4 HAS A OAK TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE THAT PROTECTS THESE OAK  
5 TREES. WHAT'S MISSING IN ALL OF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE  
6 SAFEGUARDS THAT PROTECTS THE ABILITY OF FAMILIES TO BUILD A  
7 SINGLE DWELLING ON A LEGAL LOT. WHAT IS MISSING IN ALL OF  
8 THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE SAFEGUARDS THAT PROTECTS THE ABILITY OF  
9 A RESIDENT TO CONSTRUCT A MODEST EXPANSION. AND WHAT'S MISSING  
10 IN ALL OF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE SAFEGUARDS THAT PROTECTS THE  
11 ABILITY OF A RESIDENT TO CONSTRUCT A BARN, A STABLE, OR A  
12 CORRAL FOR THEIR HORSE OR HORSES. IN CONCLUSION, THE ORDINANCE  
13 IS CONTRARY TO A COMPROMISE, AGAIN, REACHED FOUR YEARS AGO.  
14 IT'S UNFAIRLY BURDENSOME ON EXISTING RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY  
15 OWNERS AND ONLY DISCOURAGES OR PREVENTS ADDITIONAL EQUESTRIAN  
16 USES IN THOSE NORTH AREA. LASTLY, THE ORDINANCE SETS A  
17 DANGEROUS PRECEDENCE BY REQUIRING A DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL FOR  
18 ALL DEVELOPMENT IN ONE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND THE AMENDMENT  
19 THAT I WOULD HAVE, SUBSTITUTE, IS THAT I WOULD MOVE THAT THE  
20 BOARD DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL  
21 PLANNING, BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
22 WORKS, THE COUNTY COUNSEL'S OFFICE AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO  
23 MEET AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSED  
24 GRADING AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE, DIRECT COUNTY STAFF TO  
25 EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, TO PROPOSE GRADING



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1 AND RIDGELINE ORDINANCE, (A) AN EXEMPTION TO THE THRESHOLD  
2 CALCULATION FOR CUBIC YARDS OR GRADING PROPOSED AT 5,000 CUBIC  
3 YARDS OR DISTURBED AREAS, 15,000 SQUARE FEET, THOSE AREAS  
4 NECESSARY FOR CREATING A DRIVEWAY. AN EXEMPTION FROM THE  
5 THRESHOLD CALCULATIONS FOR CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING OR DISTURBED  
6 AREAS, THOSE AREAS TO BE UTILIZED FOR STABLES, BARNs,  
7 CORRALES, RIDING RINKS AND ANY OTHER EQUESTRIAN-RELATED USES  
8 FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE AND (C) A REVIEW OF  
9 WHETHER THE THRESHOLDS FOR CUBIC YARDS OF GRADING PROPOSED AT  
10 5,000 CUBIC YARDS OR DISTURBED AREAS, 15,000 SQUARE FEET, THAT  
11 TRIGGER A C.U.P. REQUIREMENT ARE UNFAIRLY BURDENSOME, WOULD  
12 EFFECTIVELY CAPTURE ALL REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPERTY  
13 AND WHETHER HIGHER THRESHOLDS ARE MORE APPROPRIATE AND THAT WE  
14 WOULD CONTINUE THE HEARING TO JANUARY 25TH TO ALLOW STAFF TO  
15 REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS. [ APPLAUSE  
16 ] [ GAVEL ]

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I JUST COMPLIMENTED YOU A LITTLE WHILE AGO.  
19 IT'S A LONG DAY FOR EVERYBODY. I'LL SECOND THE MOTION. OR THE  
20 AMENDMENT. AND THEN WE'LL HAVE A VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, ROLL  
21 CALL ON THE AMENDMENT.

22

23 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR MOLINA?

24

25 **SUP. MOLINA:** WHAT IS THIS ON?



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1

2 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** I WOULD ASK FOR A "NO" VOTE ON MR.  
3 ANTONOVICH'S, YES.

4

5 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** IT'S ON MR. ANTONOVICH-- NO?

6

7 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR BURKE?

8

9 **SUP. BURKE:** NO.

10

11 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY?

12

13 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** NO.

14

15 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH?

16

17 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AYE.

18

19 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR KNABE?

20

21 **SUP. BURKE:** AYE.

22

23 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** WE HAVE ANOTHER AMENDMENTS TO SUPERVISOR  
24 YAROSLAVSKY'S MOTION AND THAT IS THE THRESHOLD FOR GRADING AT  
25 5,000 CUBIC YARDS WOULD REPRESENT A 20-FOOT DECREASE OVER THE



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1 EXISTING STANDARD. THIS PROPOSAL UNFAIRLY BURDENS PROPERTY  
2 OWNERS PARTICULARLY SINCE CUT-AND-FILL AREAS ARE BOTH COUNTED.  
3 I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INCREASE THE  
4 C.U.P. THRESHOLD FOR GRADING TO 20,000 CUBIC YARDS, WHICH IS  
5 REALLY 10,000 CUBIC YARDS WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE WAY THEY COUNT  
6 YOUR CUT AND FILL.

7

8 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** ASK FOR A "NO" VOTE, PLEASE.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL RIGHT. ROLL CALL VOTE, PLEASE. CHAIR  
11 WILL SECOND IT.

12

13 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR MOLINA?

14

15 **SUP. MOLINA:** NO.

16

17 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR BURKE?

18

19 **SUP. BURKE:** NO.

20

21 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY?

22

23 **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** NO.

24

25 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH?





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The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

1

2 SUP. ANTONOVICH: AYE.

3

4 CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO: SUPERVISOR KNABE?

5

6 SUP. KNABE, CHAIR: AYE.

7

8 CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO: FAILED.

9

10 SUP. KNABE, CHAIR: OKAY. MAIN MOTION AS...

11

12 SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: MOVE IT AS AMENDED.

13

14 SUP. KNABE, CHAIR: AMENDED AND COMING BACK WITH THE LANGUAGE  
15 AND THE WHOLE THING. OKAY. ROLL CALL, PLEASE.

16

17 SUP. YAROSLAVSKY: IT'S A FINAL ORDINANCE.

18

19 CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO: I HAVE A MOTION BY SUPERVISOR  
20 YAROSLAVSKY. DO I HAVE A SECOND ON THAT?

21

22 SUP. KNABE, CHAIR: IS THERE A SECOND? SECOND BY SUPERVISOR  
23 BURKE.

24

25 CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO: SUPERVISOR MOLINA?



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1

2     **SUP. MOLINA:** AYE.

3

4     **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR BURKE?

5

6     **SUP. BURKE:** AYE.

7

8     **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY?

9

10    **SUP. YAROSLAVSKY:** AYE.

11

12    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH?

13

14    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** NO.

15

16    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** SUPERVISOR KNABE?

17

18    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** NO.

19

20    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** CARRIES. [ APPLAUSE ]

21

22    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PASSES. AGAIN, TO ALL OF YOU, REGARDLESS OF  
23    WHAT SIDE OF THE ISSUE YOU'RE ON, I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE.  
24    IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY AND WE WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR HANGING  
25    IN THERE. OKAY. IF YOU CAN LEAVE QUIETLY, PLEASE. WE HAVE--



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1 JUST-- YOU KNOW, I HAVE AN IDEA. SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH, I'M  
2 GOING TO CONTINUE YOUR ITEM-- CAN WE CONTINUE YOUR ITEM ON THE  
3 MEETING ONE WEEK? OKAY? ITEM NUMBER 18? IS THAT CORRECT? IS  
4 THAT THE-- GENEVIEVE, CAN YOU WAIT?

5

6 **GENEVIEVE CLAVREUL:** (OFF-MIKE). I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR SIX  
7 HOURS...

8

9 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO WE ALL HAVE, GENEVIEVE. COME SPEAK.  
10 WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE THE ITEM A WEEK. MR. TALBOT, ARE YOU  
11 STILL HERE? LYLE TALBOT? COME ON FORWARD.

12

13 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, WHILE THEY'RE COMING UP, I HAVE  
14 AN URGENCY MOTION I'D LIKE TO BRING IN.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SHHH. IF WE CAN HAVE YOUR ATTENTION,  
17 PLEASE. MR. ANTONOVICH HAS AN URGENCY MOTION.

18

19 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** RIGHT. BECAUSE OF THE FIRE, WE HAVE A  
20 SITUATION WHERE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS TO ISSUE A  
21 SPECIAL CONTRACT BECAUSE OF A SINKHOLE THAT HAS OCCURRED IN  
22 SAN MARINO/PASADENA AREA AND I WOULD, AS INDICATED BY THE  
23 TESTIMONY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ON OCTOBER 20TH,  
24 2004, THE SAN MARINO AREA OF THE COUNTY EXPERIENCED AN  
25 EXTREMELY SEVERE RAINSTORM WHICH RESULTED IN OVER FOUR INCHES



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1 OF RAINFALL. DURING THIS HIGH INTENSITY RAIN STORM, A PORTION  
2 OF ONE OF THE CITY OF SAN MARINO'S STORM DRAINS SUSTAINED  
3 EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WITH A LARGE SINKHOLE DEVELOPING ALONG A 90-  
4 FOOT SECTION OF MILL LANE. ANOTHER SUBSTANTIAL RAINSTORM IS  
5 EXPECTED THIS EVENING AND, IF MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN TO  
6 PROTECT THE CITY STORM DRAIN AND STREET PRIOR TO THIS  
7 IMMEDIATE SUBSEQUENT RAINSTORMS, EXTENSIVE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE  
8 WILL BE DONE TO THE STORM DRAIN AND THE STREET. THE CITY OF  
9 SAN MARINO HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE L.A. COUNTY FLOOD  
10 CONTROL DISTRICT. THE DISTRICT HAS ALSO AN EXISTING CONTRACT  
11 WITH MALL AND BUNTAGE CONSTRUCTION TO CONSTRUCT THE HOLLY  
12 HILLS DRAIN, UNIT 8-B PROJECT. BUNTAGE IS AN EXPERIENCED STORM  
13 DRAIN CONTRACTOR WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND HAS PROVIDED  
14 THE DISTRICT WITH AN ESTIMATE TO PERFORM THE WORK NECESSARY TO  
15 PROTECT THE CITY'S STORM DRAIN AND STREET FROM FUTURE-RELATED  
16 STORM DAMAGE. DISTRICT AND CITY OFFICIALS ARE WORKING  
17 COLLABORATIVELY TO CONSTRUCT THE REPAIRS IN A TIMELY MANNER IN  
18 ORDER TO PROTECT THE LOCAL RESIDENTS FROM POTENTIAL FLOODING  
19 IN THE REOPENING OF THE ROADWAY. SO I'D MOVE THAT THE  
20 EMERGENCY SITUATION EXISTS THAT SEVERELY IMPAIRS PUBLIC HEALTH  
21 AND SAFETY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 54956.5 OF THE GOVERNMENT  
22 CODE, BY A FOUR VOTE THAT THIS EMERGENCY WILL NOT PERMIT A  
23 DELAY RESULTING FROM A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR BIDS AND  
24 THAT THE IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION FOR BUNTAGE TO PERFORM THE  
25 WORK NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE CITY STORM DRAIN AND STREET FROM



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1 FUTURE STORM-RELATED DAMAGE, IT IS NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO  
2 THIS IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY AND THAT THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF  
3 PUBLIC WORKS BE AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AND ADMINISTER A  
4 CONTRACT WITH BUNTAGE TO PERFORM THE EMERGENCY WORK NECESSARY  
5 TO PROTECT THE CITY STORM DRAIN AND STREET FROM ADDITIONAL  
6 DAMAGE FROM FUTURE RAINSTORMS, THAT THE ITEM BE PLACED ON THE  
7 AGENDA FOR BOARD REVIEW EVERY 14 DAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
8 SECTION 22050 OF THE PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE.

9

10 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. COUNTY COUNSEL, WE CAN...

11

12 **RAY FORTNER, COUNSEL:** MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS ACTION IS...

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND  
15 POTENTIAL STORM TODAY AND EVERYTHING, IS THAT CORRECT?

16

17 **RAY FORTNER, COUNSEL:** YES, THIS IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THE  
18 CODE.

19

20 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. MR. ANTONOVICH MOVES URGENCY. CHAIR  
21 SECONDS. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. THE MOTION BEFORE US.  
22 MOVED BY ANTONOVICH, THE CHAIR WILL SECOND. WITHOUT OBJECTION,  
23 SO ORDERED. OKAY. ITEM 18. MR. TALBOT?

24



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1    **LYLE TALBOT:** THANK YOU. IT'S DAYS LIKE THIS THAT MAKE ME FAVOR  
2    MIKE-- SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH'S ITEM 18 TO MOVE YOUR MEETINGS  
3    TO CONDUCT THEM IN REMOTE LOCATIONS LIKE MALIBU AND THE  
4    ANTELOPE VALLEY, WHERE I'M FROM. IT'S FROM THE DESERTS TO THE  
5    SEA TODAY, I GUESS. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I'M ONE YEAR SHY  
6    OF MRS. HARRIS, WHO IS 75, WHO YOU HONORED HERE TODAY BUT I'M  
7    NOT AS YOUNG AS HERB JEFFRIES AT 93. I'VE BEEN 60 YEARS IN  
8    CALIFORNIA, 50 YEARS-PLUS IN ANTELOPE VALLEY, 33 YEARS WITH  
9    THE COUNTY SURVEYOR, 15 YEARS AS A COUNTY SHERIFF VOLUNTEER AS  
10   A COURIER, ALSO KNOWN AS THE L.A. RUNNER. THIS IS THE  
11   UMPTEENTH TIME BEFORE THIS BOARD. THERE WERE 14 MEETINGS  
12   SPECIFICALLY ON-- WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THIS BOARD  
13   ON THE FAILED BIO-GROW COMPOST FACILITY THAT YOU AUTHORIZED,  
14   PERMITTED IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY WHICH NEVER GOT BUILT, THANK  
15   HEAVENS. IN THE OLD DAYS IT WAS A LONG RIDE DOWN SIERRA ON THE  
16   TURNIP TRUCK BUT NOW WE HAVE THE METRO LAKE THANKS TO OUR  
17   SUPERVISOR MIKE AND THE '94 QUAKE. I'VE SEEN THESE MEETINGS  
18   CONDUCTED AT REMOTE LOCATIONS BY THE LAHANTON REGIONAL QUALITY  
19   WATER BOARD. THAT REGION IS FROM THE OREGON COAST, THE OREGON  
20   BORDER DOWN TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE  
21   SIERRAS, AND IT WORKS AND SO I HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER THAT.  
22   THANK YOU, MIKE, FOR BRINGING THIS UP AND I HOPE WE CAN GET  
23   ALL FOUR SIGNATURES OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS ON YOUR MOTION.  
24   THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

25





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1    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** THANK YOU, LYLE.

2

3    **LYLE TALBOT:** AND I JUST MISSED FOUR TRAINS THIS AFTERNOON.

4

5    **SUP. BURKE:** IS THIS ON ROTATING MEETINGS?

6

7    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** YEAH.

8

9    **SUP. BURKE:** I HAVE AN AMENDMENT. I'LL JUST PUT IT INTO...

10

11    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY. WELL, WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE THE  
12    ITEM FOR A WEEK BECAUSE I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT...

13

14    **SUP. BURKE:** I'LL PUT MY AMENDMENT IN SO IT CAN BE...

15

16    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ...COSTS THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND  
17    THEN ALSO WHETHER ONCE A MONTH IS TOO MUCH. GENEVIEVE?

18

19    **GENEVIEVE CLAVREUL:** GOOD AFTERNOON, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
20    GENEVIEVE CLAVREUL. I'M VERY GLAD TO SEE THAT ITEM COME UP. I  
21    AM, LIKE YOU, SUPERVISOR KNABE, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST  
22    TO HAVE IT AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION AND THE FEASIBILITY, BUT I  
23    THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA, MAYBE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THIS WOULD BE  
24    TO HAVE EVENING MEETINGS HERE, WHERE PEOPLE CAN ATTEND WHO  
25    ARE, YOU KNOW, WORKING IN THE DAYTIME AND SPECIFICALLY HAVE



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1 FREE PARKING BUT I THINK DEFINITELY THE TIME HAS COME WHERE  
2 THE PUBLIC HAVE MORE INPUT ON WHAT'S GOING ON AND EVEN SO YOU  
3 ALWAYS VIOLATE THE LAW, LIKE THE BROWN ACT AND THE BEILENSON  
4 HEARING, YOU KNOW? DON'T ROLL YOUR EYES, SUPERVISOR KNABE,  
5 THAT'S THE TRUTH, YOU KNOW. YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE BROWN ACT.  
6 WE STILL HAVE NO INFORMATION WHY YOU ARE CLOSING THE TRAUMA  
7 CENTER. WE ARE GOING TO THE BEILENSON HEARING. NONE OF YOU  
8 SUPPORTED SUPERVISOR BURKE'S MOTION LAST WEEK. YOU KNOW, THOSE  
9 MEETINGS ARE JUST...

10

11 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** I'M NOT SUPPORTING HER MOTION VIOLATED THE  
12 BROWN ACT?

13

14 **GENEVIEVE CLAVREUL:** NO, I DID NOT SAY THAT. I SAID IT WAS BAD  
15 YOU DID NOT SUPPORT HER MOTION. DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH.

16

17 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELL, YOU DO THAT TO ME! JUST KEEP THE  
18 CAKES COMING.

19

20 **GENEVIEVE CLAVREUL:** BUT I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. SO, I DON'T  
21 KNOW! I ONLY REWARD GOOD BEHAVIOR AND I DON'T KNOW! TODAY WAS  
22 NOT A GOOD ONE.

23

24 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** DID YOU SAY CAKES?

25



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1    **SUP. MOLINA:** CAKES?

2

3    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** PARDON ME? OH, EXCUSE ME. THAT'S BETWEEN  
4    GENEVIEVE AND I. OKAY. THANKS. WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE THE  
5    ITEM ONE WEEK BECAUSE THERE ARE ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF COST  
6    SECURITY AND IT MAY BE TOO MUCH, MAYBE DO IT ONCE A YEAR. ALL  
7    RIGHT. OKAY.

8

9    **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, MY ADJOURNMENTS.

10

11   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** OKAY, WELL, YEAH. WAIT A MINUTE. IT'S SO  
12   CONTINUED, OKAY. ADJOURNMENTS NOW.

13

14   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I'D MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN IN THE  
15   MEMORY OF KENNETH GRIFFIN, WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK. HE WAS  
16   AN ATTORNEY, DEVELOPED A REPUTATION AN A EXPERT IN FOREIGN  
17   FIELDS AND WROTE SEVERAL BOOKS INCLUDING AMERICAN LITIGATION  
18   AND EXPLANATION FOR JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN. HE WAS A MEMBER OF  
19   THE LINCOLN CLUB, HE AND HIS WIFE, SHIRLEY YAP GRIFFIN. HE WAS  
20   A RESIDENT OF GLENDALE AND HE WAS VERY FLUENT IN JAPANESE,  
21   BOTH WRITTEN AND SPOKEN. AND MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN IN HIS  
22   MEMORY. ALSO, JACK ROURKE, A GOOD FRIEND, FORMER  
23   PRODUCER/DIRECTOR AND ENTERTAINER, PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF  
24   86 ON OCTOBER 14TH AND HE WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN PRODUCING  
25   MANY OF THE FUNDRAISING TELETHONS, INCLUDING STOP ARTHRITIS,



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1 SAVE AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN THE '50S AND '60S, ALSO WITH THE  
2 FAMOUS ROURKE-WHEELER TELEVISION PROGRAM. AND ROGER GUY  
3 STEERE, WHO WAS RETIRED LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF SANTA CLARITA  
4 VALLEY, FIREMAN WITH BATTALION SIX IN SANTA CLARITA AND FIRE  
5 STATION 123. PAUL NITZE, WHO WAS A DIPLOMAT, U.S. FOREIGN ARMS  
6 CONTROL STRATEGIST FROM THE 1940S AND DURING THE DECADES THAT  
7 HE SERVED FROM FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT THROUGH PRESIDENT BUSH, SOME  
8 OF HIS MOST RECOGNIZED ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE THE DRAFTING OF  
9 THE DOCUMENT THAT LAID OUT THE MILITARY FRAMEWORK FOR  
10 CONTAINING THE SOVIETS AND ALSO INVOLVED WITH PRESIDENT  
11 REAGAN'S ADMINISTRATION IN IMPLEMENTING THOSE POLICIES THAT  
12 ENDED THE SOVIET UNION'S TYRANNY AND THEIR COLLAPSE IN 1991.  
13 DAVID MURDOCK, SON OF DAVID MURDOCK, WHO WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED  
14 IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT THIS PAST WEEK.

15

16 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL MEMBERS.

17

18 **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** AND MARY WAREHAM, PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF  
19 93. HER DAUGHTER, LINDA BURNS, WAS QUITE INVOLVED IN THE  
20 GLENDALE AND THE COMMUNITY. AND MARTHA DESANTIS-HERMANN WHO,  
21 AFTER LOSING HER HUSBAND AND RAISING FIVE CHILDREN, BECAME A  
22 SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN IN LA CANADA- FLINTRIDGE, ACTIVE  
23 MEMBER OF THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES, THE ROTARY CLUB, THE  
24 CLIPPERS AND THE KIWANIS CLUB. AND EUGENE FRANCIS DOW, WHO WAS  
25 REMEMBERED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEATRICAL ARTS



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1 DEPARTMENT AT PIERCE COLLEGE, WHERE I WAS A COLLEGE TRUSTEE AT  
2 ONE TIME. AND RICHARD PATRICK SLOCUM, GRADUATED SAUGUS HIGH  
3 SCHOOL IN JUNE 2003, WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ. SO THOSE ARE MY  
4 MOTIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN.

5

6 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO ORDERED. OKAY. FIRST DISTRICT, DO YOU  
7 HAVE ANY ADJOURNMENTS? GLORIA?

8

9 **SUP. MOLINA:** I'D LIKE TO ASK THAT WE ADJOURN IN THE MEMORY OF  
10 SIMON MAIER, BELOVED FATHER-IN-LAW OF MY LONG-TIME STAFF  
11 MEMBER, CARRIE SUTKIN. WE WANT TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST  
12 CONDOLENCES.

13

14 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** ALL MEMBERS.

15

16 **SUP. BURKE:** ALL MEMBERS.

17

18 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** CARRIE'S FATHER.

19

20 **SUP. MOLINA:** FATHER-IN-LAW.

21

22 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** FATHER-IN-LAW. OKAY. SECOND DISTRICT?

23

24 **SUP. BURKE:** I MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN IN THE MEMORY OF SAMUEL  
25 GRAVELY, JR., THE NAVY'S FIRST BLACK ADMIRAL, WHO PASSED AWAY



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1 ON OCTOBER 22ND AT THE AGE OF 82. HE ACHIEVED HISTORY BY  
2 BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO COMMAND A NAVAL FLEET  
3 AND ACHIEVED A NUMBER OF OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A SORDID 38-  
4 YEAR TRAVEL CAREER-- NAVAL CAREER. I'M SORRY. HE WAS A  
5 COMMANDER OF THE THIRD FLEET IN THE PACIFIC AND, AFTER TWO  
6 YEARS, NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE COMMUNICATION AGENCY IN  
7 WASHINGTON, A POST HE HELD UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE  
8 DUTY IN 1980. AND HE RECEIVED MANY AWARDS, INCLUDING LEGION OF  
9 MERIT BRONZE STAR AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES AWARD. HE'S  
10 SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE OF 58 YEARS, ALMA, TWO CHILDREN AND TWO  
11 BROTHERS.

12

13 **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** SO ORDERED. ZEV, DO YOU HAVE ANY-- I HAVE  
14 SEVERAL, UNFORTUNATELY. FIRST OF ALL, THAT WE ADJOURN IN THE  
15 MEMORY OF MARIO BAUTISTA, A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF JULIE AND I  
16 FROM THE CITY OF CERRITOS. HE PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 63,  
17 DIED VERY SUDDENLY LAST WEEK AT A PLANNING COMMISSIONER  
18 CONFERENCE OUT OF TOWN AND HE WAS A PLANNING COMMISSIONER,  
19 OBVIOUSLY, FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS, VERY ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR  
20 COMMUNITY. HE WAS A PAST PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR OF  
21 PHILIPPINES SOCIETY OF SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES, ACTIVE MEMBER OF  
22 THE CERRITOS JUNIOR CHAMBER AND SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER JUDGE IN  
23 NUMEROUS CONTESTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. MARIO AND HIS WONDERFUL  
24 WIFE, LINDA, ENJOYED MOVIES, TRAVEL AND DANCING AND HE  
25 ESPECIALLY ENJOYED CHASING HIS THREE GRANDCHILDREN AROUND THE





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1 HOUSE AND WRESTLING AND TEACHING THEM HOW TO PLAY BASKETBALL.  
2 WE ALWAYS COMPARED PICTURES. HE'S SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, LINDA,  
3 DAUGHTER MARIA, SON, MICHAEL, GRANDSONS, DERIC AND ANTHONY,  
4 GRANDDAUGHTER, KALEA AND BROTHER, AMBASSADOR CESAR BAUTISTE  
5 FROM THE PHILIPPINES. ALSO WE ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF WINIFRED  
6 FELANDO, THE MOTHER OF FORMER HARBOR STATE AREA ASSEMBLY  
7 MEMBER GERALD FELANDO. SHE WAS VERY INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS  
8 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DURING HER LONG RESIDENCY IN SAN PEDRO.  
9 ALSO, WE ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM FINN, WHO PASSED AWAY  
10 SUDDENLY AT THE AGE OF 62. HE IS FROM THE OHIO AREA AND IS  
11 SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE OF 32 YEARS, DONNA, WHO HAPPENS TO SERVE  
12 WITH ME ON MY HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON. IT  
13 WAS VERY SUDDEN. ALSO THAT WE ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF NOTIS  
14 CHRISTOPOULOS, A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF LONG BEACH, SURVIVED BY  
15 HIS WIFE EVANGELIA, SONS, JOHN AND THEODORE, DAUGHTER, ATHENA  
16 AND GRANDCHILDREN MAXWELL, ZACHARY AND EMILY. AND THAT WE  
17 ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF DENISE HARDWICK, A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF  
18 PALOS VERDES ESTATES AND VERY ACTIVE COMMUNITY LEADER, ALONG  
19 WITH HER HUSBAND, BRIAN. THEY FOUNDED GREAT INDEPENDENCE DAY  
20 CELEBRATION THAT'S ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST ANTICIPATED EVENTS.  
21 SHE WAS A VOLUNTEER IN THE PARENT P.T.A., BOYS AND GIRL SCOUTS  
22 AND THE NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE. ALSO WE ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF  
23 CECILIA LAXTON, VERY ACTIVE IN THE TORRANCE COMMUNITY, A  
24 LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER. SHE WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE GIRL  
25 SCOUTS, LOCAL AND STATE P.T.A.'S, YOUTH BANDS, ROSE FLOAT. SHE



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1 WAS JUST AN ALL AROUND ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AND  
2 RECIPIENT OF THE TORRANCE LOMITA CARSON BOARD AND CITIZEN OF  
3 THE YEAR IN 1990. AND, FINALLY THAT WE ADJOURN IN THE MEMORY  
4 OF DR. MILLY LIU, A RENOWNED SOUTH BAY PEDIATRICIAN. SHE  
5 STARTED HER PRIVATE PRACTICE IN TORRANCE IN '56 AND BECAME, IN  
6 1965 BECAME THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OF PEDIATRICS AT HARBOR-  
7 U.C.L.A. SHE WAS HONORED RECENTLY BY THE R.E.I. WITH THE  
8 PRESTIGIOUS LEGENDS OF R.E.I. FOR HER COMMITMENT AND  
9 GENEROSITY TO THE INSTITUTE. AND WITH THAT, SO ORDERED. I  
10 WOULD ADD, TOO, FOR THOSE AND WITHIN LISTENING EAR, WHEN WE  
11 SAY A CONTINUED WEEK, IT WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK  
12 INSTEAD OF TUESDAY DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTION AND  
13 ELECTION DAY, AND SO OUR MEETING WILL START ON 9:30 ON  
14 WEDNESDAY. WE DO HAVE TO GO BACK TO ITEM NUMBER 3.

15

16 **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** I'LL READ IN. AFTER TABULATING THE  
17 BALLOTS, A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE THAT A MAJORITY PROTEST  
18 EXISTS AGAINST THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT FOR SUBDIVISION FOR  
19 PROJECT NUMBER 3-104 WITHIN COUNTY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE  
20 DISTRICT 1697 CARSON ZONE AND THAT NO MAJORITY PROTESTS EXIST  
21 AGAINST THE REMAINING THREE SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN COUNTY  
22 LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1687 UNINCORPORATED ZONES  
23 PROJECT NUMBERS 32-304, 33-304, AND 34-304.

24



**The Meeting Transcript of  
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1    **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** AS A RESULT, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD  
2    TERMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ANNEXATION, LEVY OF  
3    ASSESSMENTS AND PROPERTY TAX TRANSFER PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
4    SUBDIVISION FOR PROJECT NUMBER 3-104 WITHIN THE COUNTY  
5    LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS 1697, CARSON ZONE, AND ADOPT  
6    THE RESOLUTIONS TO ANNEX AND LEVY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE  
7    REMAINING THREE SUBDIVISIONS, PROJECT NUMBERS 32-304, 33-304  
8    AND 34-304 WITHIN COUNTY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT 1687,  
9    UNINCORPORATED ZONES AND ACCEPT THE EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX  
10   REVENUES RESULTING FROM THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORIES,  
11   SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR BURKE. WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

12

13   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MR. WONG  
14   YOUNG SEE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION  
15   OF FRIENDSHIP IN COUNTRIES AND ALSO DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR. CHEN  
16   CHING, WHO IS HERE WITH VICE CONSUL FROM THE CONSUL-GENERAL'S  
17   OFFICE WHO ARE HERE PAYING A VISIT TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY WITH  
18   THEIR OFFICE OF PROTOCOL.

19

20   **SUP. KNABE, CHAIR:** WELCOME. OKAY. UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT, DR.  
21   DORIS SIMS. STILL HERE? CHERYL WASHINGTON. YASHIN JAMES, JULIA  
22   BOYLAND, ALTHEA HOWARD AND ANGELA JOHNSON. THEY'VE LEFT. OKAY.  
23   WITH THAT, IF YOU'LL READ US INTO CLOSED SESSION, PLEASE.

24



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1    **CLERK ROBIN GUERRERO:** IN ACCORDANCE WITH BROWN ACT  
2    REQUIREMENTS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF  
3    SUPERVISORS WILL CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ITEM CS-  
4    1, CONFERENCES WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING EXISTING  
5    LITIGATION, ITEM CS-2, CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR  
6    APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF COUNTY COUNSEL. ITEM CS-3,  
7    CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS ITEM  
8    CS-4, CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING INITIATION OF  
9    LITIGATION, ONE CASE AND ITEM A-3, BRIEFING BY SHERIFF LEROY  
10   D. BACA OR HIS DESIGNEE AND RELATED EMERGENCY SERVICES  
11   REPRESENTATIVES PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 AS  
12   INDICATED ON THE POSTED AGENDA AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA.

13

14   **SUP. ANTONOVICH:** MR. CHAIRMAN, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WATCHING ON  
15   TELEVISION, IT'S ALMOST 5:00 IN THE MORNING, THEY'RE JUST  
16   WAKING UP, SO WE WISH THEM A GOOD MORNING AS THEY GET UP TO DO  
17   THEIR JOGGING, THEIR EXERCISING, MAKING THEIR CHILDREN'S  
18   LUNCH. SO ANYWAY... [ LAUGHTER ]

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jennifer A. Hines, Certified Shorthand Reporter Number 6029/RPR/CRR qualified in and for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript of recorded proceedings was taken on Tuesday, October 26th, 2004, at the time and place therein set forth and recorded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction and supervision;

And I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of recorded proceedings is a full, true, and correct transcript of the recorded proceedings before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anywise interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of November, 2004.